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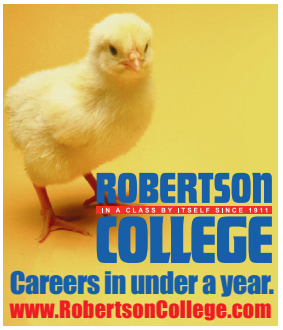
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Police issue warning after church break-ins

CRIME The Calgary Police Service is reminding churches and other businesses in the city to store money or valuables in a safe place or make regular bank deposits to avoid having cash on-site overnight.

This comes after police reported a half-dozen break and enters in city churches over the past few months in the northwest.

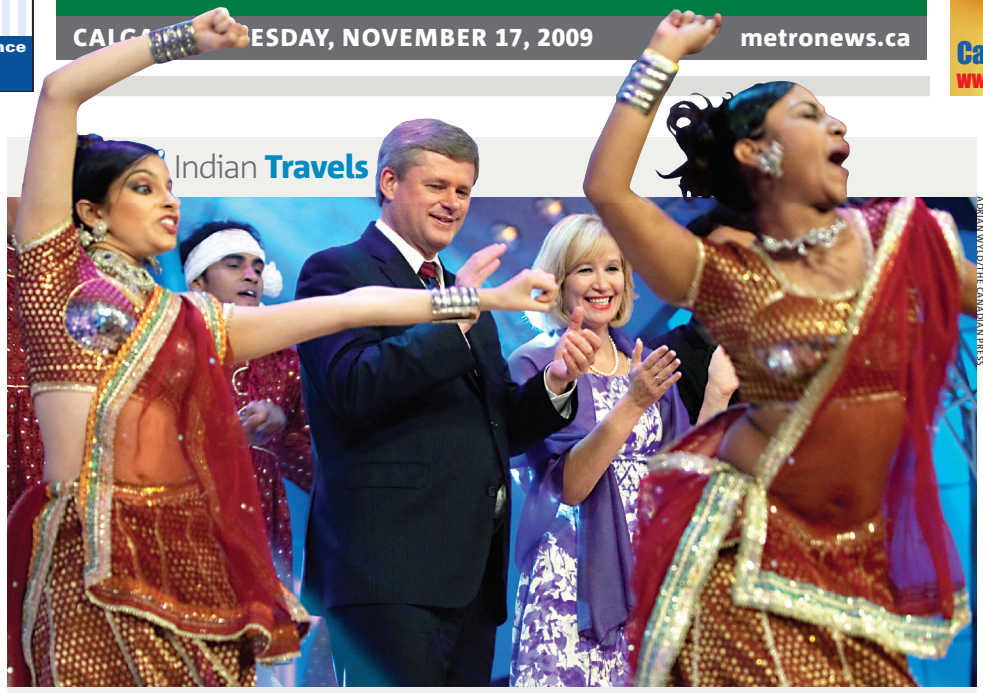
In all instances, the suspects broke in by forcing open a window or door. Once inside, they found a cash box and other valuables.

Police said all of the incidents occurred between 12:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m.

Anyone with information on the break-ins is asked to call Det. Cam Brooks at 403-567-6700.

METRO CALGARY

Indian **Travels**



ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper watches dancers as he appears on Dance Premier League, a reality dance contest show, during a stop at television studios in Mumbai, India, yesterday. More coverage, page 7.

Hospitals face crunch

Over 800 hospitalized with swine flu since April: Health officer

Flu **Outbreak**

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Coping but stressed.

Hospitals are overloaded with H1N1 patients and health officials warn we haven't hit the peak yet, but they announced new categories for immunizations this week set to phase in the general public.

Dr. Gerry Predy, Alberta's senior medical officer of health, said one-third of patients currently in provincial hospital intensive-care units have the flu, which is a "little higher" than normal, but it's the ages that are unique.

"The patients who are severely ill and requiring care are younger than what we'd see with seasonal influenza," Predy said, adding more than 800 people have been hospitalized with H1N1 since April.

Officials admit hospitals are overwhelmed and said 20 more ICU beds were added to cope with the demand.

"Staffing is one of the biggest areas affected. We've had staff sick but we've juggled things around and managed so far."

Dr. Andre Corriveau, Alberta's chief medical officer of health, said the next group in line for immunization this week after those 75 and older (with spouses) would be seniors over 65 and their spouses and partners, and then the province would look at other groups in the general public that could include children.

First responders allowed shots

Alberta first responders, including Calgary police officers, firefighters and EMS workers, will be allowed to get their vaccinations at city clinics this week with proper idenfication, according to officials.

While police Supt. Barry Clark said everyone is pleased with the announcement, officials from all three services believe immunizations would be quicker if the province would allow them to do their own vaccinations. Tom Sampson, deputy chief of the Calgary Emergency Management Agency, is working with the province on a plan.

"We are having and encouraging our members to go to the clinics ... on their own time or as time permits," Clark said.

But he added this would take weeks or months unless they were given the vaccine, which would only take four or five days.

Rejection of pesticide ban stuns alderman

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

COUNCIL A Calgary alderman is disappointed city council did not approve an outright ban recommendation on cosmetic pesticide use in the city.

Ward 11 Ald. Brian Pincott said he was surprised about the turn of events in council yesterday since aldermen previously supported the ban. But council will move ahead with a bylaw to reduce the use of pesticides.

"It's good for the environment, it's good for the health and safety of citizens, and it's proven to be good for business, so why are we not moving forward with it?" a frustrated Pincott said.

"It's just got me stunned. Absolutely disappointed."

While council approved moving forward with the bylaw by 13-2, a motion to include a timeline to end pesticide use in Calgary was voted down 8-7.

"There is no goal or target to end use," Pincott added.

Pest-control expert Don Faulds applauded the decision to not completely terminate pesticide use.

"It was by far the best decision they could have made. It was a very smart thing to do," Faulds said.

The bylaw is expected to come back to council in December.

News on the Move

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Celebrity Buzz pg 33

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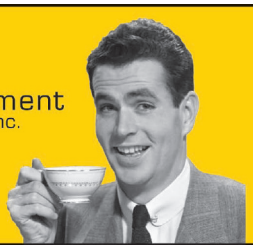
The Healthy Retirement Group Inc.



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SCANLIFE

Local

Hedley headed here

Canadian pop-rock band Hedley is coming to the Stampede Corral during a cross-Canada tour, with special guests Boys Like Girls, Stereos and Fefe Dobson on Sunday, March 28. Tickets will go on sale this Saturday at all Ticketmaster outlets and ticketmaster.ca Tickets will cost $45, including GST. METRO CALGARY

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

Calgary tweets

• @djwald Warm day in #yyc. Not complaining at all. Just so long as there's snow on the ground by mid December.

• @calgarymike I have noticed lately, some retail outlets trying to provide better customer service. #YYC @gjsproule Danielle Smith's partisans sooner attack advocates of an 'NDP of the Right' than current PC policies. Newsflash:Reform died,NDP didn't. #wap

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Cops don't cry hate crime

Police leery of moniker as Jewish groups urge action

CHRIS KELLY
for Metro Calgary

Despite urgings from Calgary's Jewish community to view the recent vandalism of a Holocaust memorial and two Jewish facilities as hate crimes Calgary police are leery to label them as such.

On Sunday the Calgary Jewish Centre, a Woodbine Jewish facility, as well as a number of fences, signs at a number of synagogues and a private residence were spray painted with anti-Semitic slogans and signs.

"What we have to do is get to the heart of what happened, interview who did this act and find out if it's really in their heart," said Insp. Richard Hinse from District 6, where the incidents happened.

"This could be kids, who have no hate in their heart, who have done something like this, or it could be a group that does."

Investigators have retrieved surveillance from the local area which shows a single suspect spray-painting walls and are working on identifying the person in the video.

"There could easily be other suspects involved in this," Hinse warns.

"It looks like a hate crime, the targeting of one specific group, but it really is an attack on our entire community," said Supt. John McReynolds from the police diversity unit.

McReynolds said labelling something as a hate crime is done by the attorney general who takes into consideration all the evidence in the case a Crown prosecutor presents.

All the graffiti was cleaned up by Calgary by-law officers.

ROBIN KUNISKY/FOR METRO CALGARY

City police are investigating, but still reluctant to tag weekend vandalism of southwest Jewish monuments a hate crime.

A statement from Prime Minister Stephen Harper

• "Sunday morning, our Jewish friends and neighbours woke to a sickening site: the Holocaust War Memorial, the Calgary Jewish Centre synagogues and a private home defiled during the night by Nazi imagery and anti-Semitic slogans.

"I join all residents of Calgary Southwest in condemning this cowardly and hurtful act of vandalism. Anti-Semitism is a disease of the soul; its odious manifestations, in any form and however rare, can never be tolerated in Canada."

Council approves cash for Chinatown Centenary Celebration

City hall rubber-stamped potential funding for the 2010 Chinatown Centenary Celebration planned next summer, at yesterday's regular meeting of council.

Ald. Druh Farrell, who along with Ald. Gord Lowe submitted the motion to council, said it was too early to determine how much funding and support the city would provide until consultation with the groups planning the centennial event is complete.

Farrell did says she believes council chose to back up the Chinese community because this is an important and worthy event for many people living in other communities, and it's a chance for Calgarians to celebrate a milestone.

"Calgarians will want to be a part of this event, because it's the perfect opportunity to allow people to become reacquainted with Chinese culture."

In 1910, the third and current Chinatown was established at Centre Street and 2nd Ave, making this the 100th anniversary of its location.

Farrell said other centenary anniversaries will take place next year including the city's parks and library systems, the Calgary Highlanders and the King's own Calgary Regiment.

More details regarding the amount of funding and forms of support will be released before April of next year.

TANYA VLAHOV/
FOR METRO CALGARY

Calgary in brief

CHARGES Police have charged a 25-year-old man in connection with three pharmacy robberies targeting the painkiller OxyContin. Timothy Curtis Arthurs faces four counts of robbery and one count of wearing a disguise after police arrested him walking in the area of one of the robberies on Friday.
METRO CALGARY

CALGARY OBITUARIES

CalgaryObits.com notes the following deaths in our community:

ANDERSON, Barney Charles (Ben)
ANSELMO, Anthony Garry (Tony) OC
ARTHUR, Helen Louise (nee Grant)
BRISCOE, Coral Marie
CARLSON, Diane
CHUTSKOFF, Dale Nicholas
CRUMP, Melvin
CUNNINGHAM, David William
DUNNE - CROY, Helen Louise (Ragan)
GILROY, Gordon Charles
HINDS, Anna (Zella) (nee Bennett)
KLAVER, Louis (Lou)
KOTHKE, Elaine Marilyn
LABUHN, Rosa
LAWRIE, Henry Richardson
MacDOUGALL, Evelyn L
McKEE, Pearcyville (Percy) James
PAYNE, Howard Alan
PROC, Stephan "Steve"
REIMER, Harvie Ronald (Harv)
RITCHIE, William (Bill) Douglas
SCOTT, Roberta Elaine
SHEARS, Loretta Mae
SKINNER, Antony (Tony)
SPRING, Engelbert (Bert)
STAMBENE, Domenico
UTSUNOMIYA, Lily (Miyoko)

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Firefighters set Dec. 31 deadline for applications
The Calgary Fire Department will no longer be accepting firefighter applications as of Dec. 31, 2009 until further notice. According to a release, the fire department has received enough applications to fill the recruitment need for 2010. METRO CALGARY

Feds, Alberta put extra $25M into pine beetle battle

FORESTRY The Alberta and federal governments hope another $25 million will help contain a massive swarm of tree-killing mountain pine beetles before they spread farther east.

Another wave of the tiny bugs flew deep into Alberta this summer. Some are now within an hour's drive west of Edmonton.

Yesterday's announcement includes $10 million in federal cash and brings Alberta's total anti-beetle budget to $35 million. That's down about 10 per cent from last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CHARITY Reported charitable donations surpassed $8.1 billion in 2008, down 5.3 per cent from 2007, but Statistics Canada says, based on tax returns, the number of donors increased 1.7 per cent to just under 5.8 million. Donors in Abbotsford-Mission, B.C., had by far the highest median donation among cities at $600, the sixth straight year they have led. Calgary finished third with $360. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Fire uncovers marijuana crop

Electrical blaze in empty house due to overheating: Officials

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

A marijuana grow operation went up in flames in the city's southeast yesterday morning.

The routine fire call resulted in crews discovering 500 marijuana plants after firefighters quickly contained the fire in a house in the 3400 block of 33 Street SE, according to fire spokesperson Jeff Budai.

"It appears as though there is just a table in the home, and the plants were found in the basement through a makeshift door," Budai said, adding he doesn't believe anyone was living in the home.

While arson investigators were initially called in to assist the drug unit, investigators determined the fire was electrical in nature and was caused by overheating of the electrical ballasts used to provide electricity to the grow operation.

Insp. Kevin Forsen of the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) said officials have determined the house is unsafe to enter.

"This investigation illustrates the inherent danger that marijuana grow operations pose to the community," Forsen said.

Investigators estimate the damage to the house at $300,000 but pegged the street value of the 500 plants found in the home to be $625,000.

Officials believe the grow operation was in its early stages and not yet fully operational, they added.

No arrests have been made and police continue to investigate and ask anyone with information to contact them at 403-266-1234.

ROBIN KUNISK/FOR METRO CALGARY

City firefighters snuffed out a fire at a southeast home yesterday, and in doing so uncovered a crop of 500 marijuana plants with a street value of $625,000. Damage to the home was pegged at $300,000.

New Coke bottles to use plant-based material

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

OLYMPICS Coca-Cola Canada says it will have new plastic packaging for its bottles at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, with 30 per cent of the material derived from plants.

The bottles will be used for a variety of beverages, including Coca-Cola, Fresca, Sprite and Dasani, sold in British Columbia and Alberta next year, and eventually introduced elsewhere in Canada, said spokesman Dave Moran.

Facilities in Calgary and Richmond, B.C., will roll out the so-called PlantBottle packaging beginning in December, according to the company.

The company says the new PlantBottle offers the same performance as traditional PET plastic bottles, with no difference in shelf life, weight, appearance or function. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Man shot by cops has court hearing

A man shot by Calgary police last week appeared in court via video yesterday facing previous charges. Lee Christopher Monrose faces several charges. METRO CALGARY

Fire fighters help count UNICEF haul

Halloween collection in its 54th year

CHRIS KELLY
for Metro Calgary

Despite trading in their little orange collection boxes for in-school fundraising four years ago, the UNICEF Halloween collection continues on into its 54th year as strongly as ever.

Yesterday, and for the next two to three days, Unicef will be partnering up with the Calgary Fire Department who has allowed around 50 volunteers to use a northeast fire house to take part in the sorting, counting and rolling of the coins collected by Calgary children. Almost 30 Calgary firefighters have volunteered to pick up the money collected by the children.

"This is a great tradition, the fire department has been working with Unicef in this capacity for 44 years now," said John Conley, a Unicef volunteer and retired Calgary firefighter.

Volunteers included off-duty and retired firefighters, Royal Bank employees, and Calgary Board of Education Retirees.

"For almost half a century Calgary's fire fighters have been helping us teach global citizenship to Calgary students. It's been an amazing partnership," said Holly Davidson, Unicef's regional director.

Last year Calgary schools raised $250,000 through the Trick or Treat for Unicef program with the whole of Canada raising $2.3 million said Davidson.

CHRIS KELLY FOR METRO CALGARY

Joye Dunlop carefully counts quarters in a northeast fire house as over 50 volunteers sorted through the money collected by Calgary children this halloween.

connecting with your community

Safer Community Lecture Series

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Presented by the Calgary Police Service and The City of Calgary, Community & Neighbourhood Services

Join Inspector Brian Whitelaw of the Calgary Police Service and currently the Coordinator of Calgary Transit's Public Safety and Enforcement Section as he explores the relationships between crime and disorder with the construction of a new community LRT station.

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167 Templegreen Road, NE

CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

THE CITY OF CALGARY
COMMUNITY & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Montreal mulls larger subway cars order

A larger, more expensive order for new Montreal subway cars could be announced by the end of 2009, says the head of the city's transit authority. Yves Devin said it's up to the Quebec government to announce if the order will be larger than the original forecast of $1.2 billion for 342 cars. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Green boss recalls lessons of farm

The new leader of Ontario's Green Party still hasn't forgotten the lessons he learned growing up on a Kansas farm four decades ago. After all, that small farm is where Mike Schreiner — the Toronto entrepreneur who was the only candidate at a leadership convention in London this past weekend — says his green principles sprouted. "I think every farmer knows that your prosperity is dependent on healthy soil and a healthy environment," said Schreiner. THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 in 5 vaccinated for swine flu, says top doc

Flu **Outbreak**

H1N1 The country's chief public health officer says Canada is leading the world when it comes to the percentage of its citizens vaccinated against the swine flu.

Dr. David Butler-Jones says about 20 per cent of the population has received the H1N1 shot in the last three weeks. Canada has about 33 million people. "That's just unheard of," he said at an international conference on HIV/AIDS in Winnipeg yesterday. Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq told the House of Commons some jurisdictions will have completed their vaccinations this week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nova Scotia **Torch relay**

STEVE MADDEN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Special Olympian Lynette Sampson, of Sydney River, N.S., holds the Olympic torch high for a large crowd gathered at the Sydney waterfront yesterday for the start of the Cape Breton leg of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic torch relay, in Sydney.

Harper pitches trade

PM praises partnership during visit to India

Prime Minister Stephen Harper experienced the complexities and contradictions of India yesterday with a chaotic tour schedule that took him from the gritty and moving scene of a terrorist attack to Bollywood star power and the corridors of business power.

In a luncheon speech to a Mumbai investor audience at a posh hotel, Harper praised the long Indo-Canadian relationship and the huge Indian diaspora in Canada, while emphatically stating that more can be done.

"This South Asian tiger indeed has awoken, and the world is standing in awe," said Harper.

The prime minister later flew to New Delhi for talks with Indian government leaders.

It is Harper's first visit to India since he came to power almost four years ago. With critics complaining that his Conservative government has missed out on opportunities with an emerging economic superpower, Harper delivered an aggressive sales pitch that stressed both the work that's already been done and the promise of more.

"Let's do the math," Harper told the business luncheon audience.

"Between us, our combined GDP is well on the way to $4 trillion. Yet at the moment we are only doing $5 billion worth of business per year. Where we are today is not where we ought to be."

Harper recited all the links between India and Canada, including pluralistic parliamentary democracy, federalism and more than a million Canadians who claim Indian heritage.

He said both countries are emerging from the global economic downturn in good shape, and pitched Canada as a great place to invest."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Youth swing Sikh temple vote
A youth slate seeking a return to more traditional customs claimed victory in the election at the Guru Nanak Sikh Temple in Surrey, B.C. THE CANADIAN PRESS

No need to say sorry, says immigration MP

No apology forthcoming for abused migrant kids

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney says there's no need for Canada to apologize for abuse and exploitation suffered by thousands of poor children shipped here from Britain starting in the 19th century.

Australia has apologized for its part in the mistreatment of the so-called home children and the British government has announced it will issue a formal apology next year.

Kenney says he supports a private member's motion to declare 2010 the year of the home child, in remembrance of the "sad period" in Canadian history.

But he says there's limited public appetite for official government apologies for tragic events of the past and no demand for one in this particular case. From 1869 to 1939, an estimated 100,000 orphaned or abandoned youngsters were taken off the streets of Britain and sent to Canada and other former British colonies with the promise of a better life. Many were abused physically and mentally or put to work.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nova Scotia **Tax hikes possible**

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter addresses a news conference in Halifax yesterday. Dexter, responding to a report on the province's financial health, said they won't be able to balance the budget next year and didn't rule out tax hikes.

Book accuses China of abuses

FALUN GONG A new book says China is still harvesting organs from Falun Gong prisoners for medical transplants.

The book by former Liberal MP David Kilgour and lawyer-activist David Matas, is an update of two previous reports they produced on the Chinese organ trade.

It says Falun Gong practitioners are held in labour camps by the tens of thousands and killed for their organs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AIDS vaccine closer: Experts

HEALTH Researchers say they are closer than ever to finding a vaccine against HIV/AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) thanks to people who have had contact with the virus but haven't become infected.

Case studies were shared at a gathering of about 75 international experts in Winnipeg yesterday with the hope of getting another step closer to beating the virus that attacks the immune system.

Dr. Frank Plummer, director of Winnipeg's National Microbiology Laboratory, said he expects to see a vaccine in his lifetime.

"I'm confident that we will get there eventually," Plummer said. "It's not a simple problem. If it was, we would have done it already."

In September, researchers announced that a two-vaccine combination cut the risk of becoming infected with HIV by more than 31 per cent in a trial of more than 16,000 volunteers in Thailand.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fifth man convicted in Bandidos case plans appeal

A fifth man convicted in the mass slayings of eight men associated with the Bandidos biker gang has declared his intent to appeal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Top toys honoured

Parents seeking green options: Council

A colourful, peek-a-boo baby play centre, a tumbling top and a reversible costume set are among the top toys for 2010 chosen by the Canadian Toy Testing Council.

Most of the choices this year are educational as well as fun, says the council's Janet Heatherington.

"Obviously parents want to have toys that will educate kids and engage them, teach them good social values for example," she said.

"The kids, of course, they love just to play. What we found with our award winners this year is it was a great, great combination of educational value and just plain fun."

The battery-operated toy of the year is for babies aged six months to 18 months. It's called Songs 'N Smiles Sillytown and uses stacking blocks and a tumble-down slide.

Created by Fisher-Price, the multicoloured toy includes eight peek-and-pop action blocks and over 16 songs and goofy sounds.

For children less than a year old, there's Playskool-Hasbro's Explore 'N Grow Tumble 'N Twirl Top. The brightly coloured, pump-action toy was a hit with several children at a news conference yesterday where the top picks were announced.

For three years and up, reversible costumes for boys and girls got a nod.

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Four-year-old Lucca Dyck plays with a V-Tech Light-Up Learning Camera while wearing a Creative Education of Canada Reversible Dragon/Knight Hood during the Canadian Toy Testing Council's 2010 award winning toy press conference in Ottawa yesterday.

One goes from dragon to knight, the other turns from Sleeping Beauty to Snow White.

One of the council's Best Bet awards for older kids, in the eight years-plus range, went to How To Draw Funny, a book that gives children tips on making comics.

It is perhaps one of the quietest toys going, allowing budding cartoonists to sit and hone their skills.

Parents this year asked that some environmentally friendly toys be tested, said Heatherington. What the kids flocked to was something most parents might consider a basic toy.

"One of our Best Bet picks is a very standard sand play set," said Heatherington, describing a pail, digging tools and a sandcastle mould, from The Original Green Toy company.

"What was interesting about it was it was made from recycled plastic," she said. "And parents are looking for those kinds of toys." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Airlines, flying schools seek compensation over Olympics

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

RESTRICTIONS Small airlines and flying schools are facing disruptions caused by air-traffic restrictions during the 2010 Winter Olympics and they're looking for compensation.

The Air Transport Association of Canada is sending Prime Minister Stephen Harper a letter asking for between $3 million and $5 million to cover fixed costs they'll otherwise have to absorb during eight weeks of restrictions covering the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Vancouver.

Carriers flying into Vancouver from small B.C. towns will have to change their routes for about five weeks to ensure all flights go through security screening. And Vancouver-area flying schools say they'll be all but shut down because of restrictions on where they can fly during that period.

And Vancouver-area flying schools say they'll be all but shut down because of restrictions on where they can fly during that period.

Association president John McKenna says they've brought their concerns to several federal ministers without success, so they're appealing directly to the prime minister.

If that doesn't work, McKenna says the association may go to court. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Environment Canada seeking $2M in payments

RESTRICTIONS Environment Canada is trying to clean up a toxic spill on its balance sheets.

A recently released audit shows the department is owed some $2 million, and roughly a third of the late payments are overdue by more than a year.

But debt collectors at Environment Canada are struggling to get people to pay up — and they're not exactly threatening to kneecap those who can't cough up the cash on time.

"There is a significant lack of follow-up both within the regional accounting offices and in departmental accounting," the audit says. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mining companies have a double standard: Activists

Activists say a double standard exists among Canadian mining companies. Participants at a conference in Montreal say many of the companies are good corporate citizens domestically but often ignore the environmental and social needs of communities abroad. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Watchdog looks at security initiatives

Canada's privacy watchdog will flag potential problems today with the system for zeroing in on cash linked to terrorism and other crimes.

Privacy Commissioner Jennifer Stoddart plans to release an audit highlighting her concerns about practices of the little-known Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada. She will also disclose findings of a look at Transport Canada's no-fly list — a controversial program she has cast a wary eye upon for years.

Audits of the two national security initiatives will be featured in Stoddart's annual report to Parliament.

The reports analysis centre, or Fintrac, collects, analyzes and discloses personal financial information about suspected money laundering and terrorist financing.

Two years ago the centre did an assessment of the impact of its activities on privacy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

No-fly list background

- The no-fly list, which came into effect in June 2007, is intended to prevent people considered a threat to aviation security from boarding a flight originating in or heading to Canada.

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Illegal drugs not as they seem: Report

QUEBEC A report on illegal drug use says more than half of Quebecers who use so-called designer drugs have no idea what they're consuming when they swallow what they think is ecstasy or speed.

It warns users that they're taking a risk if they think they can trust their pusher.

Benoit Archambault, a spokesman for Health Canada, says what jumps out from a report on drug seizures is that in 54 per cent of cases, the user "doesn't really know what he's swallowing."

Archambault made his comment yesterday while presenting a report that analyzed all synthetic drugs seized in Quebec between June 2007 and July 2008.

He says substances analyzed in Health Canada laboratories did not always turn out to be what drug dealers claimed.

"For example, in the case of ecstasy, in close to 80 per cent of cases, the user was consuming another drug or a combination of drugs," Archambault said.

"Methamphetamine (speed) was often substituted for ecstasy, making it the number-one synthetic drug in Quebec." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Samples

- 365 drug samples were analyzed and 57 per cent were ecstasy compared with 28 per cent which were methamphetamine.

Monitoring a safe prostate cancer treatment: Study

HEALTH A long-term study has found that men with low-grade, slow-growing prostate cancer who are managed with "active surveillance" and no radical treatment have an extremely high survival rate. Active surveillance means close monitoring of a patient's PSA, or prostate-specific antigen, levels and periodic biopsies to make sure the cancer isn't spreading — without surgery or radiation therapy.

The 13-year study by researchers at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto determined that men with such low-risk prostate cancer had an overall survival rate of almost 80 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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'Population crunch' not good for Atlantic Canada: Think tank

A Halifax-based think-tank says Atlantic Canada stands to lose hundreds of thousands of workers over the next several decades as it contends with a shrinking population. In its latest report on population and the labour force, the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies says the region is experiencing a "population crunch." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Methods paying dividends: Military

The Canadian military says its new methods are effectively weakening the insurgency in Afghanistan.

Hundreds of fighting-age Afghans have been offered wages to work on development projects, sparing them from having to earn a living by fighting for the Taliban.

It's one of the counter-insurgency moves used under Brig.-Gen. Jonathan Vance, who will complete his tour of duty as top commander of the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan on Thursday.

Combined with increased Canadian presence in key villages in Dand district, senior military officials suggest the insurgency in the area is beginning to fragment.

"It's early days, but I would like to posit we're seeing a definite split with some of the initiatives we're taking," said Col. Mike Patrick, the outgoing chief of operations for Canada's Task Force Kandahar. He's referring to the breaking away of Afghans "who would pick up arms and fight with the Taliban to gain money, (who) aren't necessarily ideologically motivated but are trying to seek a methodology for feeding their family."

"For the Taliban, the pool for recruiting people has virtually dried up."
Col. Mike Patrick

Their departure means that "for the Taliban, the pool for recruiting people has virtually dried up," Patrick said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

India Harper visits landmark

JASON RANSOM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this photograph provided by the prime minister's office, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, centre, visits the Chabad House, an Orthodox Jewish cultural landmark in Mumbai, India, yesterday. The Chabad House was the target of a terrorist attack on Nov. 26, 2008, when an Israeli rabbi and his wife were killed.

Trial underway for father, two sons accused in Vancouver Island murder

COURT On trial for second-degree murder, a former Highlands, B.C., town councillor Ken Brotherston and his sons, Ken Jr. and Gregory, entered not guilty pleas yesterday in B.C. Supreme Court on the first day of their trial.

The father and sons were charged after the body of Keith Taylor, 33, was taken to the West Shore RCMP detachment, located about 10 kilometres northwest of Victoria.

In his opening statement to the judge, Crown prosecutor Patrick Weir said the profound beating Taylor suffered "was not a case of self defence," although the incident occurred at a home where known cocaine users and crack addicts congregated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

GOOGLE A union representing Canadian writers says it's leery of Google's proposed move into digital sales of out-of-print books. On Friday, Google moved closer to settling a U.S. class-action lawsuit with the Authors Guild and Association of American Publishers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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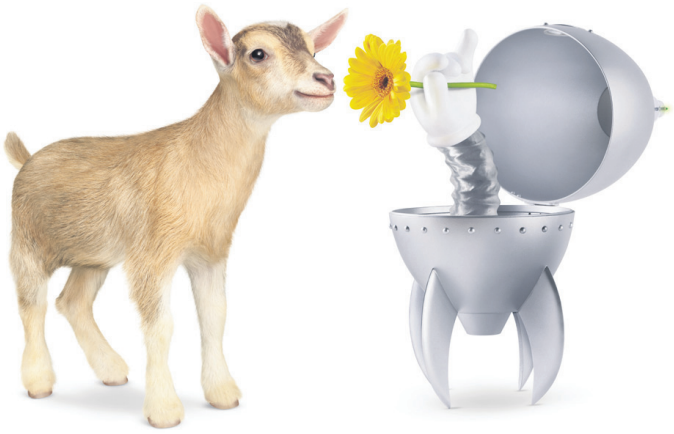

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France, Iraq sign deals
France laid the groundwork yesterday for deeper ties with Iraq, signing two deals with the country. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Greenpeace names new director

Kumi Naidoo, left, took over as director of Greenpeace yesterday, bringing experience honed as a teenage opponent of white rule in South Africa and a network of powerful contacts to the battle against global warming. Gerd Leipold, his predecessor at Greenpeace, said Naidoo's appointment is a watershed, both because he is the first African and because he is the first executive director to come from outside the organization. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Launch has tweeps a-Twitter

Atlantis lifts off as 100 fans take it all in from up close

NASA fans cheering on the shuttle and churning out constant Twitter updates, Atlantis sailed smoothly into orbit yesterday with six astronauts and a full load of spare parts for the International Space Station.

The supply run should keep the space station humming for years to come, and the shuttle astronauts in space for 11 days.

Atlantis was clearly visible as it shot through thin afternoon clouds, to the delight of Twittering space enthusiasts who won front-row seats to the launch.

The contest winners splashed news — mostly tweeting "wow" and "amazing" about the liftoff — over countless cellphones and computers in 140 characters or less.

"What's exciting to me is that they've captured the spirit and the excitement that we all feel, and they were able to capture it in a very few number of characters," NASA space operations chief Bill Gerstenmaier said with a chuckle.

"They're amazing, little, short statements about what they felt."

The space agency expects to keep the space station flying until 2015, possibly 2020 if President Barack Obama gives the go-ahead. During their 11-day flight, Hobaugh and his crew — including the first orthopedic surgeon in space, Dr. Robert Satcher Jr. — will unload the nearly 14,000 kilograms of equipment and experiments. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fix-ups

- Atlantis will reach the space station tomorrow. NASA wants to stockpile as many pumps, tanks, gyroscopes and other oversize equipment as possible at the space station, before the three remaining shuttles retire next fall.

JOHN RAOUX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Space shuttle Atlantis lifts off from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., yesterday.

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Memoirs of Mussolini's mistress paint ugly picture

ITALY Benito Mussolini was a fierce anti-Semite, who proudly said that his hatred for Jews preceded Adolf Hitler's and vowed to "destroy them all," according to previously unpublished diaries by the Italian Fascist dictator's longtime mistress. According to the diaries, Mussolini also talked about the warm reception he received from Hitler at the 1938 Munich conference — he called the German leader a "softy" — and attacked Pope Pius XI for his criticism of Nazism and Fascism.

On a more intimate note, Mussolini was explicit about his sexual appetites for his mistress and said he regretted having affairs with several other women.

The dairies kept by Claretta Petacci, Mussolini's mistress, between 1932 and 1938 are the subject of a book coming out this week entitled Secret Mussolini. Excerpts were published yesterday by Italy's leading daily Corriere della Sera.

Mussolini

Historians said the diaries appeared to be convincing and reinforced the image that Mussolini was strongly anti-Semiti. But they cautioned that these are the diaries of the dictator's lover — not Mussolini himself — and therefore must be taken with an extra grain of salt.

The Fascist dictator said that "there never was a pope as harmful to religion" as Pius XI and accused him of doing "undignified things, such as saying we are similar to the Semites," according to the excerpts.

For years, the Vatican has struggled to defend Pius' successor — the wartime Pope Pius XII — against claims he didn't do enough to save Jews from the Holocaust. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Evening with Gadhafi not what models expected

Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi hosted a soiree in Rome for some 200 young Italian women, but instead of the party they expected the women were given a lecture on Islam and copies of the Qur'an, a news report said yesterday.

At least they got paid.

A reporter for Italy's ANSA news agency went undercover with the women, who were hired for around $80 by a modelling agency for the event Sunday evening. Journalist Paola Lo Mele said the women assembled at a hotel, where some where left behind because they were not tall enough or dressed modestly enough.

Those accepted were taken to a villa, where Gadhafi lectured them on women's rights and religion, and urged them to convert to Islam.

FILIPPO MONTEFORTE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Libyan Leader Moammar Gadhafi attends the inaugural ceremony of a World Summit on Food Security organized by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome yesterday.

"All the girls expected a party with a gala dinner," Lo Mele told her agency. Instead, "he made a 45-minute speech on Islam and women's role in Islam. It was a bit of an indoctrination session." Lo Mele took pictures before and after the event, showing the women carrying Qur'ans they received as gifts.

Gadhafi was in Rome to attend a UN summit on world hunger. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man sentenced in sex tourism ring

NEW JERSEY A small-time actor and former children's entertainer who was known for playing Santa Claus was sentenced yesterday to nearly 20 years in prison for his role in an international sex tourism ring that preyed on young children. Wayne Nelson Corliss, whose 2008 arrest was the culmination of an international manhunt, had admitted travelling to Thailand three times between 2000 and 2002 to have sex with at least two boys, ages six and nine.

"You have acted beyond the bounds of human decency," U.S. District Judge Joseph A. Greenaway told him. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Two drug kingpins arrested separately in Venezuela
Venezuelan authorities have detained an Italian and a Colombian wanted on drug trafficking charges. Police captured 54-year-old Italian Walter Carapacci, who is wanted on charges of trafficking heroin to Europe. Police also captured Colombian Luis Mauricio Palacios Giraldo, who is wanted on drug trafficking and money laundering charges. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gunmen kill 13 in Iraq

Men pulled from homes, shot execution-style

Gunmen in Iraqi army uniforms abducted and killed 13 people whose bodies were found yesterday with gunshot wounds to the head, including a local leader of Iraq's largest Sunni party, which once helped fight al-Qaida.

Police played down the incident as tribal violence in an attempt to defuse sectarian tension, but the political connection suggests the killings could also have been the work of insurgents or rival Sunnis vying for power before January elections.

Violence has dropped sharply in Iraq over the past year, but politicians and security officials have warned in recent weeks of a possible spike in violence in the run-up to the national polls as insurgents look to undermine the government and destabilize the country.

> **"It is a worrisome indication that the situation might be deteriorating."**
> Islamic Party statement

Gunmen wearing military uniforms knocked on doors and ordered the residents to step outside, saying they wanted to search the houses for weapons. The assailants then handcuffed 13 men, shoved them into a minibus and drove off, al-Zubaie said.

All 13 men were later found in a nearby cemetery, killed execution style with a bullet to the head, said the mayor and police official Waleed al-Zubaie.

The killings are reminiscent of those that plagued Baghdad at the height of the sectarian bloodshed of 2006 and 2007, when men, sometimes dressed in police or army uniforms, snatched people from their houses at night before killing them and dumping the bodies.

The Iraqi Islamic Party condemned the killings, describing them as a revenge attack against people who had helped stabilize the area.

"It is a worrisome indication that the situation might be deteriorating," the party statement read. "The people behind this crime are aiming at seeding insecurity and turmoil in the area." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philippines **Fire leaves 700 homeless**

AARON FAVILA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filipino boys climb up a mound as residents salvage belongings from the remains of their burnt homes in Mandaluyong city, east of Manila, Philippines yesterday. The fire razed about 400 shanties and left some 700 families homeless, investigators said. No one was reported injured.

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Extremists given free rein: Group

BRITAIN Two of Britain's most high-profile Muslim extremists have been given free rein to recruit fellow inmates in prison and are spreading propaganda from behind bars, a think-tank founded by two former Islamic radicals said yesterday. London-based Quilliam Foundation said in a report that Muslim cleric Abu Qatada — once described as Osama bin Laden's ambassador in Europe — managed to smuggle out extremist propaganda from prison with the help of visitors, who then spread his message on the Internet. It said that another radical preacher, Abu Hamza al-Masri — the one-eyed, hook-handed cleric whose extradition is being sought by the United States — was able to hold sermons through the pipes that link cells. It said another inmate used his allotted phone calls to speak to an Islamic TV station. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Climate deal could hinge on two issues

There's not enough time to strike a detailed and binding deal at next month's Copenhagen conference on climate change but nations say it still can succeed if all 192 countries can agree on two sets of numbers.

Those numbers — how much money will be given to poor countries to adapt to global warming and how much industrial countries will reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next 10 years — are highly contentious, and there's no guarantee that even the scaled-back ambition for a political agreement can be reached.

Cabinet ministers and top negotiators from 40 key countries convened yesterday for two days of closed-door meetings to prepare for the UN conference in the Danish capital, but were unlikely to try to set those specific numbers. That will remain for the summit next month.

But other crunch issues required discussion, officials said.

Key among them was how financing — more than $100 billion US a year within a decade — will be raised and delivered to countries in need. Also critical was how major emerging economies like India and China can help fight climate change, and how their contributions can be embedded in an international accord.

U.S. President Barack Obama, in Beijing, put climate change on top of his agenda for talks with President Hu Jintao, looking to increase collaboration on green energy and joint research projects, but the two leaders were not expected to discuss specific targets to be set out at Copenhagen.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was upbeat about Copenhagen's prospects.

"There is no cause for alarm," he said in Rome during a conference on food security. "We can still reach a significant agreement in Copenhagen that will provide the foundation for a treaty next year." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Succeeding Kyoto

- The Copenhagen agreement is meant to succeed the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which set emissions targets for 37 industrialized countries. The U.S. rejected Kyoto as economically damaging and unfair since it made no demands of rapidly growing economies. The Obama administration wants to be included in the new accord. But its reluctance to commit to emissions targets or financing until U.S. Congress completes domestic legislation was partly responsible for delaying a legally binding international accord.

News in brief

GEORGIA A U.S. Army cook and single mother could face criminal charges after she refused to deploy to Afghanistan, saying no one could care for her 10-month-old son. Commanders at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah had 21-year-old Spc. Alexis Hutchinson arrested by military police Nov. 6. She remained confined to the Army post Monday while her case is investigated. Her attorney says Hutchinson planned for her mother in California to keep the child during her year-long deployment. But Hutchinson's mother decided she couldn't because she's caring for three other relatives with illnesses and special needs. Hunter Army Airfield spokesman Kevin Larson says no charges have been filed.

ABUSE Three brothers who claim they were sexually molested by their Boy Scout and Mormon youth leader in the 1970s and 1980s have sued both organizations. The suit filed in San Francisco Superior Court alleges that church officials in Sunnyvale ignored complaints of abuse from the three boys and failed to notify authorities. The plaintiffs, identified in the suit only as John Does, say they were molested hundreds of times by the man. The suit identifies the former scout and church leader as 65-year-old William E. Knox, a Georgia resident. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Immigrants to U.S. no longer required to get HPV shot

Immigrant girls and women will no longer have to be vaccinated against a sexually transmitted virus to get their permanent U.S. residency permits. Starting Dec. 14, the HPV, vaccine will no longer be on the list of immunizations female immigrants ages 11 to 26 must receive before becoming legal permanent residents. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barzee to plead guilty in Smart case

The wrenching saga of the abduction of Elizabeth Smart of Utah is showing the first signs of resolution seven years after it began.

Today, Wanda Eileen Barzee — one of two people charged in the case — will plead guilty to charges of kidnapping and unlawful transportation of a minor in U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City, attorney Scott Williams told The Associated Press.

Barzee's alleged role in the abduction has garnered less attention than her estranged husband, Brian David Mitchell, but her expected plea marks a major step forward in the cases that stalled when both defendants were ruled incompetent for trial.

Smart's abduction at knifepoint from her Salt Lake City home in 2002 riveted the U.S. as hundreds of people helped search for the 14-year-old.

Her recovery in March 2003, when she was spotted walking suburban streets with Barzee and Mitchell, was an improbable defiance of the odds.

Mitchell is accused of taking Smart as a polygamous wife. As part of the hearing, Smart said last month that Barzee had washed her feet and dressed her in robes for the wedding ceremony shortly after the abduction. Smart said she was raped daily by Mitchell throughout her nine months of captivity.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GEORGE FREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wanda Barzee

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Gitmo inmates may offer future for small town

PRISON Some folks in this dying Mississippi River town would rather take their chances with suspected terrorists than watch their neighbours move away in despair over the lack of jobs.

News that the U.S. government may buy the nearly empty Thomson Correctional Center and use the maximum-security prison to house Guantanamo Bay detainees has given the 450 residents of Thomson some hope.

"This town is slowly but surely dying off, and I mean that literally because the people that are retired are dying off and there's no young people coming back in to take their place. There's nothing here to draw them," said Richard Groharing, a 68-year-old retired Florida corrections officer who was born in Thomson.

The prison was built in 2001 with the promise of thousands of jobs. But because of state budget problems, it has been largely vacant since its completion. The Obama administration wants to close the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and transfer some terrorism suspects to the U.S. for trial. Federal officials were at the Thomson prison yesterday to inspect it and meet with state and local authorities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

PIRATES Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says intensified international action to tackle ship seizures off the Somali coast is forcing pirates further afield into the Indian Ocean and more closer to the Seychelles. In a report to the UN Security Council, Ban says the expanding international maritime presence is playing a critical role in stabilizing the situation at sea. He said in the report naval ships and military aircraft, as well as ships' improved efforts to protect themselves, have considerably reduced successful incidents of piracy and armed robbery, especially in the Gulf of Aden. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palin speaks out about Levi Johnston on Oprah
Sarah Palin says it's "a bit heartbreaking" to see the road the father of her grandson has taken. The former Alaska governor and former Republican vice-presidential candidate appeared on yesterday's episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show, saying Levi Johnston is on a road that is "not a healthy place to be." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Free the web: Obama

U.S. president says China should stop Net censorship

U.S. President Barack Obama sat down with the Chinese leader last night, hours after he pointedly nudged his host country to stop censoring Internet access, offering an animated defence of the tool that helped him win the White House — and suggesting Beijing need not fear a little criticism.

The president's message during a town hall-style meeting with university students in Shanghai focused on one of the trickiest issues separating China's communist government and the United States — human rights.

"I think that the more freely information flows, the stronger the society becomes, because then citizens of countries around the world can hold their own governments accountable," Obama told students during his first-ever trip to China.

"They can begin to think for themselves."

The first-term U.S. president and his delegation later arrived at the Forbidden City for Obama's third meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao, where trade and economic issues were expected to dominate. The two leaders then sat down for what was expected to be a lavish dinner behind the walls surrounding the ancient city that was once home to Chinese emperors. They were scheduled to meet again today.

Obama's message, aside from his proddings on human rights, was clear: Few global challenges can be solved unless the world's only superpower and its rising competitor work together.

He and his advisers have insisted in virtually all public utterances since he arrived in Japan on Friday: "We do not seek to contain China's rise."

Obama recognizes that a rising China, as the world's third-largest economy — on its way to becoming the second — and the largest foreign holder of U.S. debt, has shifted the dynamic more toward one of equals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama greets students yesterday at a town hall-style event in Shanghai.

Rwandan genocide conviction overturned

TANZANIA A UN appeals court yesterday overturned the conviction of the former Rwandan president's brother-in-law, who had been sentenced to 20 years for organizing a massacre that left about 1,000 dead during the 1994 genocide.

The judge said that serious errors had been committed during Protais Zigiranyirazo's 2008 conviction and sentencing, and ordered him to be released immediately.

Zigiranyirazo, 71, stood in disbelief in the courtroom. "God is great and justice has been done," he told The Associated Press after the judge overturned the sentence.

At least 500,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed during Rwanda's genocide, which began after President Juvenal Habyarimana's plane was brought down in April 1994. Many in Rwanda were disappointed with the court's decision.

"It is a sad decision for all Rwandans who know what this man did. He is a member of Akazu — a group well-known for its serious participation in the genocide," said Tharcisse Karugarama, Rwanda's justice minister and attorney general.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

TUNA Environmentalists yesterday said an international deal to reduce catches of Atlantic bluefin tuna didn't go far enough to protect the species from extinction. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas decided at a meeting Sunday in Brazil to limit 2010 catch quotas to 13,500 tons to prevent overfishing of the fish, the European Union said. The commission sets annual fishing limits in an effort to save the fish stock from extinction. Signatory countries had previously agreed to cut catches to 22,000 tons from 28,500 this year, but scientists and environmental groups argued a total ban was needed to salvage a viable tuna stock.

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Guard accused of threatening to shoot Obama pleads guilty in deal

An airport guard accused of threatening to shoot U.S. President Barack Obama has pleaded guilty to two counts of harassment in a deal with prosecutors. New Jersey resident John Brek originally faced charges of making terroristic threats and receiving stolen property. Each carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arnold pumps up U.S. troops

Governor plans to lead workout, serve breakfast in Baghdad

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger dropped in on U.S. troops in Iraq yesterday, thanking them for the sacrifices they and their families are making.

Schwarzenegger entered a crowded dining hall at Camp Victory on Baghdad's outskirts to a loud roar from the soldiers gathered.

He congratulated them on the job they were doing before shaking hands and posing for photographs.

The former Mr. Universe also discussed with soldiers the need to work out, reminding them: "You have to pump up every day."

Schwarzenegger planned to work out with some of the troops today after serving them breakfast, said his spokesman Aaron McLear.

McLear said the governor also hopes to meet with Iraqi officials. Schwarzenegger had dinner yesterday with a group of generals — including Gen. Raymond Odierno, the top U.S. commander in Iraq — after handing out cigars to troops.

PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger hands out cigars to U.S. soldiers during a visit to Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, yesterday.

McLear said Schwarzenegger has been wanting to make such a trip for a while but has been unable to do so as he dealt with pressing issues in California, including a series of multibillion-dollar budget shortfalls.

"You have to pump up every day."
Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger

The California Protocol Foundation, a group headed by some of California's top business officials that raises money for the governor's travels, is paying for the overseas trip, McLear said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doctors safely separate twins joined at the head

MELBOURNE Hospital officials say that twin Bangladeshi girls who were joined at the top of their heads and shared brain tissue have successfully been separated after 25 hours of delicate surgery.

Leo Donnan, chief of the Royal Children's Hospital, says that both girls are doing "very well" after the surgery, which concluded late yesterday. He says the next step is reconstructive surgery, which will last many hours.

A team of 16 surgeons and nurses began work yesterday on separating the two-year-old Bangladeshi orphans, Trishna and Krishna, who were brought to Australia as infants by an aid organization.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trishna, one of the conjoined twins separated yesterday by Australian doctors, is seen here in this file photo.

Doctors had given them a 25 per cent chance of surviving the separation surgery without brain damage or other major problems.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ABUSE Three brothers who claim they were sexually molested by their Boy Scout and Mormon youth leader in the 1970s and 1980s have sued both organizations. The suit filed in San Francisco Superior Court alleges that church officials in Sunnyvale ignored complaints of abuse from the three boys and failed to notify authorities. The plaintiffs, identified in the suit only as John Does, say they were molested hundreds of times by the man. The suit identifies the former scout and church leader as 65-year-old William E. Knox, a Georgia resident.

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Time Warner to spin off AOL into new company
Time Warner said yesterday that it will spin off its Internet business, AOL Inc., as a separate company on Dec. 9. Time Warner Inc. said it has declared a dividend on the AOL shares it owns that will result in a complete separation of the two companies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

9-11 trials spur security fears

Hot sauce and a comb were all an al-Qaida suspect in New York needed to almost kill a guard nine years ago.

The bloody episode suggests that security worries in bringing Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other suspects from the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to trial in New York City could be just as big inside the courthouse as outside.

Already, U.S. marshals are promising the highest security possible, an acknowledgment of how dangerous terror suspects have been in the past.

Attorney General Eric Holder announced Friday that Mohammed, professed mastermind of the 2001 attacks, and four accused henchmen would be brought to New York to face a civilian federal trial.

The trial is planned for a court complex just blocks from where the World Trade Center towers were destroyed in the attack blamed on these men. The courthouse is among the most secure in the nation, ringed by closed-off streets, 24-hour guard posts, anti-truck-bomb barricades and street video cameras so powerful that they can read the print off a passerby's newspaper.

The Sept. 11 case would be the most spectacular of a half-dozen major terror trials in New York that already have sent away the men blamed for the 1993 bombing of the trade centre, a plot to blow up five landmarks in New York City, a scheme to blow up a dozen U.S. airliners over the Far East and the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Security debate

- The decision to try the Sept. 11 suspects sparked debate over security risks posed to densely populated lower Manhattan, but far less has been said about attempted violence by the defendants themselves.

Sicily **Mafia boss captured**

ALESSANDRO FUCARINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italian forensic police officers are seen outside the apartment of Mafia boss Domenico Raccuglia, in Calatafimi, near Trapani, Sicily, yesterday. Police captured one of Sicily's top Mafia fugitives on Sunday, dealing a stiff blow to the island's Cosa Nostra crime syndicate, Italian officials said.

Maori remains found in Wales returned home

CARDIFF Twelve sets of Maori remains discovered in boxes in a Welsh museum have been handed back to New Zealand in an emotional ceremony.

The National Museum Wales in Cardiff says it has no idea how it came into possession of the bones, which were discovered in a recent audit.

The repatriation was arranged with the help of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

Te Herekiekie Herewini, the museum's repatriation manager, said yesterday they were the first of 33 sets he intended to collect on a two-week European tour. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Repatriation

- Museums across Europe have begun repatriating human remains taken from indigenous burial grounds in violation of local customs.

Queue-jump in Wal-Mart leads to assault trial

MISSOURI Nearly three years after Heather Ellis switched checkout lines at a store and touched off what she calls a racially-charged dispute with white customers and authorities, the teacher faces a trial that could send her to prison for 15 years.

Witnesses say Ellis cut in line at the Wal-Mart in the small Southern town of Kennett, Miss., on Jan. 6, 2007, shoved items already placed on a conveyor belt out of the way and became belligerent when confronted, according to court filings.

Ellis maintains she was merely joining her cousin in line. She claimed that she was then pushed by a white customer, called racial slurs and physically mistreated by police officers. Police say that Ellis refused requests to calm down and leave the property, allegedly kicking one's shin and splitting another's lip. Her trial on charges of assaulting police officers begins tomorrow. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

High times for Harper

NationalReport
Lawrence Martin

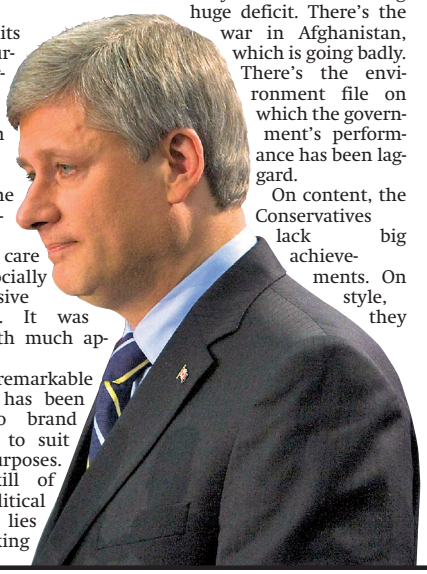
metronews.ca/nationalreport

Few could have predicted this — that a year after almost losing the government over his boneheaded budget update, Stephen Harper would be riding higher than ever.

A year ago, it looked that given his stumblings, given the oncoming recession, given the arrival of a new Liberal leader, this prime minister might be on his way out.

But here he is today with a big lead in the polls, a good showing in last week's byelections, his Liberal opposition reeling. He is defining the agenda to suit his conservative values. He is even scoring some points — who could have imagined his Beatles' song rendition? — in terms of personal appeal.

His conservative agenda — Stephen Harper's Canada — was stamped out in the revamped citizenship guide his government issued last week. It was heavy on pride in the Armed Forces, law and order, the monarchy, limits to cultural tolerance. It was light on gay marriage, the environment, health care and socially progressive content. It was met with much applause.



It is remarkable Harper has been able to brand Canada to suit his purposes. The skill of the political leader lies in making the people feel good about what's going on. On the face of it, Canadians don't have much to cheer about. They are not better off than they were four years ago. There's the recession and Ottawa's progress in fighting it is coming at a heavy cost — a looming huge deficit. There's the war in Afghanistan, which is going badly. There's the environment file on which the government's performance has been laggard.

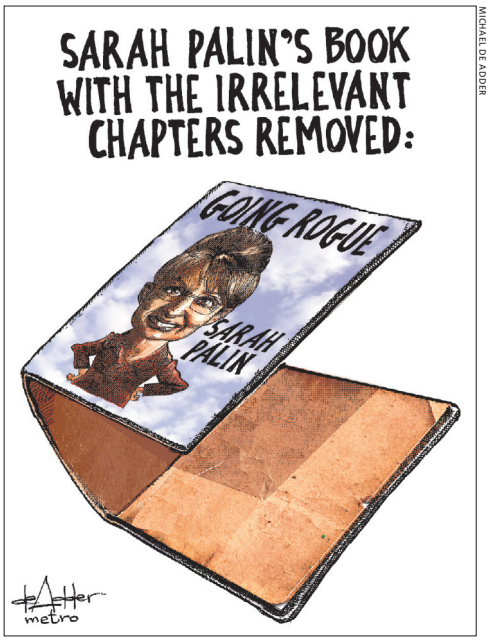
On content, the Conservatives lack big achievements. On style, they have been repeatedly criticized for their secrecy, heavy-handedness, one-man rule, all very much in contrast to its promise of a new era of transparency.

Their success is all the more surprising in that it bucks the trend to the south. In the United States, George W. Bush and Sarah Palin have tarnished the conservative brand. Barack Obama leads a liberal resurgence.

There's no such trend resurgence here. Here, Harper's conservatism is making Canadians feel good, or at least not dismayed, about what's going on. He's been lucky, helped along by the ineptitude of the Liberals. But in part, it's been the prime minister's craftiness that has made them appear that way.

Those of us who thought he would be on his way out by now were way off. He's on his way in. He may just be getting started.

Lawrence Martin is a journalist and author of 10 books who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Noteworthy

Free speech muzzled at Net freedom forum

United Nations officials forced free-speech advocates to take down a poster over its reference to China's web restrictions at an Internet conference focused on freedom, saying yesterday it violated a ban on posters at events organized by the world body.

The OpenNet Initiative, which focuses on Internet freedom around the world, had placed a banner at the Internet Governance Forum mentioning China's censorship of the web. UN officials said an unnamed delegation objected to the poster, and others objected to another flier from the group also relating to China.

"We have a no poster policy, be they commercial or political," Markus Kummer, the forum secretariat's executive co-ordinator, told The Associated Press.

He said the OpenNet Initiative had been granted a meeting room after officials were unable to accommodate its late request for an exhibition booth at the forum.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Irony

- Much of the Internet Governance Forum's focus was on the issue of freedom, as well as security and giving youth a greater voice in setting policy. That put the OpenNet banner issue in a particularly ironic light.

Worth mentioning

Scotch has been on rocks for 100 years

A beverage company has asked a team to drill through Antarctica's ice for a lost cache of some vintage Scotch whisky that has been on the rocks since a century ago.

The drillers will be trying to reach two crates of McKinlay and Co. whisky that were shipped to the Antarctic by British polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton as part of his abandoned 1909 expedition.

Whyte&Mackay, the drinks group that now owns McKinlay and Co., has asked for a sample of the 100-year-old scotch for a series of tests that could decide whether to relaunch the now-defunct Scotch.

Workers from New Zealand's Antarctic Heritage Trust will use special drills to reach the crates, frozen in Antarctic ice under the Nimrod Expedition hut near Cape Royds.

Al Fastier, who will lead the expedition in January, said restoration workers found the crates of whisky under the hut's floorboards in 2006. At the time, the crates and bottles were too deeply embedded in ice to be dislodged.

The New Zealanders have agreed to try to retrieve some bottles, although the rest must stay under conservation guidelines agreed by 12 Antarctic Treaty nations.

Fastier said he did not want to sample the contents.

"It's better to imagine it than to taste it," he said. "That way it keeps its mystery."

Richard Paterson, Whyte&Mackay's master blender, said the Shackleton expedition's whisky could still be drinkable and taste exactly as it did 100 years ago.

If he can get a sample, he intends to replicate the old Scotch and put McKinlay whisky back on sale.

"I really hope we can get some back here," he was quoted as telling London's Telegraph newspaper.

"It's been laying there lonely and neglected. It should come back to Scotland where it was born.

"Even if most of the bottles have to remain in Antarctica for historic reasons, it would be good if we could get a couple," Paterson said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Danone to buy back up to 1.25 billion in bonds to cut debt servicing costs
Danone SA, the bottled water and dairy goods producer yesterday launched a cash offer to buy back up to 1.25 billion of its bonds to cut interest charges and lower debt. The Paris-based company said the offer is scheduled to run to Nov. 24. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

DOLLAR	GAS	OIL	TSX
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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

CRTC should rein in cable: CTV

Canada's largest private broadcaster says the CRTC should again get into the business of regulating television cable and satellite firms.

CTVglobemedia has opened controversial hearings on so-called "fee-for-carriage" by blasting cable companies for threatening to raise rates to consumers if they are forced to pay for over-the-air signals.

Officials with CTV argue cable companies had a free ride for 40 years in being able to carry signals for such stations as CTV and CBC and the time has come for them to pay for the service.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS
President and CEO of CTVglobemedia Ivan Fecan takes part in the CRTC hearings in Gatineau, Quebec yesterday.

Cable and satellite firms say if they are forced to pay, they will pass on the charge, which could be as much as $10 a month, to consumers.

But CTV executives Ivan Fecan and Paul Sparkes told the CRTC the cable firms can easily afford to absorb the costs, saying since they were deregulated, cable firms have instituted fee hike after fee hike at whim.

They say the CRTC could reign in the cable firms by ordering them to carry a basic TV service at a cost the regulator would set.

Commission chairman Konrad von Finckenstein said the hearings would establish the ground rules for the long-term viability of Canadian television.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Actors say attach Canadian content strings

- Members of the ACTRA union say cable firms are in position to absorb the added costs of paying over-the-air networks like CTV, CBC and Global for their signals.
- But ACTRA union head Ferne Downey says the broadcasters also should not be allowed to keep about $350 million the fee-for-carriage is likely to bring so they can pay more for expensive U.S. shows.
- ACTRA says the CRTC must demand that broadcasters invest at least six per cent of gross revenues on Canadian dramas and comedies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Housing sales up

HOUSING MARKET Canadian home resales improved 41.5 per cent year over year to 42,288 units in October, a record for the month, according to the Canadian Real Estate Association.

The national average price for homes listed on the Multiple Listing Service also reached a new high in October at $341,079. This was 20.7 per cent higher than the same time last year.

New sales records for the month were reported in one-fifth of local markets.

The sharp rise in demand for homes has shrunk inventories to 194,994 or a seasonally adjusted 4.1 months worth, the lowest level in more than two years and 20.8 per cent below the peak reached a year ago.

Seasonally adjusted new listings on MLS were slightly higher in October compared to September at 65,148 units. New listings peaked in May 2008, then declined until March 2009, and have remained relatively steady since then.

"New listings are still expected to rise in the coming months in response to headline average price increases," stated CREA chief economist Gregory Klump.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manufacturing sales rise 1.4%, says StatsCan

REPORT Manufacturing sales rose 1.4 per cent in September to $41.7 billion, largely reflecting increases in the motor vehicle industry.

Statistics Canada reports manufacturing sales have increased in three of the past four months after dropping to a recent low of $38.5 billion in May.

Despite the recent gains, sales remained 18.6 per cent below September 2008 levels. While most of September's gains were in the motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts industries, other durable goods industries, such as primary metals and fabricated metals, also contributed.

Sales advanced in 14 of the 21 manufacturing industries, accounting for 53.1 per cent of total sales.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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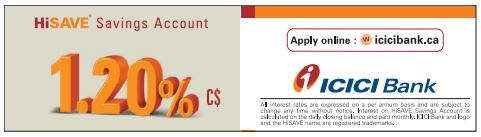
Your Money

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA



Clear credit debts

MoneyMatters

Q I have thousands invested in shares. I also have a large balance on my credit cards but always make the minimum payment. I have read that it is important for me to pay off my credit cards first. Why? I would have no investments with this approach and therefore have little for retirement.

— Amir

A Investing is more than holding stocks. An investment objective should be to increase your net worth year over year but not lose sight of long-term goals.

You would increase net worth (assets less liabilities/debt) faster if you paid off debt before buying shares. Some critics may argue that buying shares could give better returns than the interest paid on the debt. That's a possibility, but "could" comes with unknowns and risk. Your returns are not guaranteed. Paying down debt is a guaranteed increase in net worth. When you eliminate debt, you increase net worth and cash flow for future investment. Only then, look at buying into the market.

Debt elimination is not as colourful as forecasting the next oil or IT darling but it gives results.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA, can be reached at choochonghcga@yahoo.ca and 416-485-5225.

Warranties yield gold

AlisonOnMoney

A couple of months ago I got fed up with the fraying and splitting rubber sleeve on the foaming wand of my Breville espresso machine and called up the manufacturer to complain. A sweet lady apologized and said she'd send a replacement out right away by courier. Free, no less.

That easy and satisfying solution got me thinking about all the times I've benefited from warranties, sometimes unexpectedly.

A few years back, I took my collection of Henckel knives into a free sharpening clinic. One of my favourites had the point broken off after some unauthorized workshop surgery done by my husband years earlier. Even though I confessed to my spouse's crime, the manufacturer's representative took one look at it, furrowed his brow as if the knife was at fault and said, "That shouldn't happen." Voilà, a brand new implement.

On another occasion we ordered a replacement for our Frigidaire fridge, by then a year or so past the warranty. When the repairman delivered it he noticed a crack on the plastic base of the fridge and said, "I think that that's a new fridge." We were stunned when a new one showed up a couple of weeks later. We had forgotten that there was a 20-year warranty on the liner.

Similarly, Obus Forme replaced the back and seat of a 10-year-old office chair. Again, we'd forgotten those parts carried a lifetime part guarantee.

Almost everything we buy, from vice grips to light bulbs, has some kind of guarantee attached and sometimes manufacturers will even replace items after the warranty has expired — you won't know until you ask.

Yes, some manufacturers don't stand behind their product but my experience is that mostly they do, especially those located in Canada or the U.S. Mining your warranties can pay off in thousands of dollars of replacement items over the years.

Alison's Money Rule:

- Product warranties are like gold nuggets buried in the ground — you just have to dig them up and put them to good use.

Alison Griffiths is a financial journalist, author and host of Maxed Out on the W Network. Write to her at alison@alisongriffiths.ca.

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You wouldn't learn to drive without an instructor, so why invest your hard-earned money online without guidance?

For many investors new to the self-directed investing world, the idea of taking command of their money can be in equal parts exciting and nerve-wracking, since no one wants to make a mistake with their own hard-earned money, and the options can feel so overwhelming.

Jason Storsley, president and CEO of RBC Direct Investing, says the biggest hurdle direct investors face is gaining the confidence they need to feel like they can succeed.

"Being a self-directed investor is really about building confidence and ensuring the decisions you make are the right decisions for you," Storsley said.

Contrary to what the online investment world was like many years ago, a majority of online investors today are not sophisticated day traders but regular people looking to meet their own, varied financial goals with direct investing.

Many more first-time investors are going online every day, and Storsley says the overwhelming message they are projecting is that while they want to take control of their own investments, they don't want to be left out in the cold.

"What we're hearing from our investors is they do want to do this themselves but they don't want to do it by themselves — they're looking for some guidance," Storsley said.

Going it alone can be a daunting prospect for even the most seasoned investors so RBC offers a wealth of help and advice in its guidance and planning section on the main direct investing site. There, investors can get informed on all aspects of the investment world, starting with basic concepts and goals all the way up to advanced trading and investment strategies.

For newer investors, having a strong understanding of the investment process will give them a powerful foundation from which to build a successful investment strategy.

"You need to know things like, 'How do I start and how do I even set investment goals?'" Storsley said.

With the personalized learning section, you can create a learning plan that will be tailored to your specific needs and investment goals.

Savvy traders might want to learn about advanced equity and options trading and strategies, while newer investors might want to get a better grip on how mutual funds work.

Whatever your knowledge level, creating a personalized learning plan on the RBC Direct Investing site is a great way to put expert advice to work for you.

"It really is a place where an investor can develop a tailored learning plan that will be fitted to his or her individual needs and objectives," Storsley said.

Once you've grasped the knowledge you need, the next step is to determine just what kind of investor you are based on what your goals are.

Do you want to try and maximize your returns in a shorter period of time and can manage some risk or are you looking to step in for the long term with less intense investments that provide steady growth?

How you see yourself, your needs and your investment objectives will be a strong determiner of what kind of investment strategy you should pursue.

"You need to think, 'Do I have goals that are short-term or long-term?' Your portfolio will look very different depending on your answer to that question," Storsley said.

Storsley says among RBC direct investors the three most popular investment objectives tend to be planning for retirement, saving for a home and trading for profit, and RBC Direct Investing offers investors learning and investment plans already set up to reach those goals.

For investors that are ready to implement their investment strategies but don't want to risk real money just yet, a practice account with RBC Direct Investing makes it easy to see the outcome of investment decisions without having to risk anything.

"You can evaluate your performance in a risk-free environment without putting your own money on the line," Storsley said.

If you think direct investing is right for you, make sure to use every resource you have at your disposal.

"Our clients are asking for guidance and tools more and more because more of our clients are getting interested in self-directed investing — and that takes guidance, careful planning and consideration," Storsley said.

On the web

- For more on RBC Direct Investing, log on to rbcdirectinvesting.com.

Many online investors today are regular people looking to meet their own financial goals.

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Mercedes buys Brawn GP

Mercedes-Benz is taking over Formula One champion Brawn GP and plans to end its stake in McLaren. Mercedes-Benz said yesterday that Brawn would race in 2010 as the Mercedes GP team. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Rodman detained in Germany

Former NBA star Dennis Rodman, left, was temporarily detained in Germany after a hotel said he skipped out on a $5,100 US hotel bill. Organizers of an exhibition game in the town of Trier had agreed to pick up the tab for Rodman's hotel, but not an additional $5,100 for beverages consumed at a party he held there. Rodman later paid the bill along with an additional $2,500 to dismiss possible legal proceedings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

No motivation needed

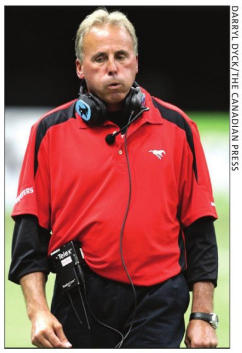
Stamps know full well the importance of Sunday's contest

The Calgary Stampeders don't need any extra incentive to prepare for their West Division final against the Roughriders in Saskatchewan next Sunday.

"Winner goes to the Grey Cup, that's motivation enough," said Calgary coach and GM John Hufnagel a day after his squad beat the Edmonton Eskimos 24-21 in the West semifinal.

After the players enjoy two days to recuperate from Sunday's tough challenge against the Eskimos, they'll return to McMahon Stadium tomorrow to prepare for the Riders.

"The players want to earn the right to play in the Grey Cup," Hufnagel said. "They have the opportunity to do that on Sunday. It's going to take a good hard week of practice and then great execution for three hours on Sunday."



DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calgary Stampeders' head coach John Hufnagel

Having gone 0-2-1 against Saskatchewan in the regular season, the Stamps will face a confident and rested group of Roughriders at Mosaic Stadium in the West final.

"We know we're going in playing the regular-season West Division champion and rightfully so, they deserved it," Calgary quarterback Henry Burris said after completing 19 of 32 pass attempts for 264 yards and two touchdowns against Edmonton.

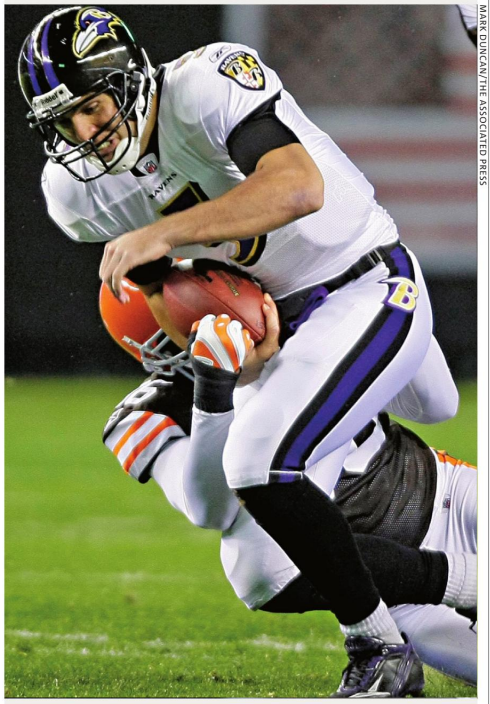
"They've got a defence that flies around so we're looking forward to going back and getting this opportunity."

As a former Rider, Burris fully expects the crowd at Mosaic Stadium to make it as loud as possible when the Stampeders have the ball.

"We know it will be tough going against their 13th man," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL Downed by a Brown



MARK DUNCAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baltimore quarterback Joe Flacco is sacked by Cleveland linebacker David Bowens last night in Cleveland as the Browns hosted the Ravens. **For a complete game recap, visit metronews.ca/sports**

Titans owner slapped with fine for gesture

NFL The NFL has fined Titans owner Bud Adams $250,000 US for making an obscene gesture at Buffalo fans while celebrating Tennessee's victory over the Bills.

Commissioner Roger Goodell notified Adams of the fine yesterday, and a league spokesman said it is for conduct detrimental to the NFL. Adams was seen making the gesture while in his luxury suite and again on the field after Sunday's 41-17 victory.

Adams, 86, issued an apology a couple of hours later, saying he got caught up in the excitement of the moment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forsberg forgoes NHL comeback

HOCKEY Vancouver Canucks general manager Mike Gillis says former NHL star Peter Forsberg has decided to play in his native Sweden this season rather than attempting a comeback in the NHL.

Gillis had been considering signing Forsberg, who is playing for Modo of the Swedish Elite League but had been thinking about a return to the NHL. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sports in brief

SOCCER While the Montreal Impact may not have realized its dream of joining Major League Soccer in 2011, MLS commissioner Don Garber said in his annual state of the address that he still sees the Canadian team as the league's next franchise. "We've had productive conversations with Montreal to be our 19th team. We have not put a timetable as to when that team would join the league if we're able to reach agreement with them."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA Further tests on Chris Paul's ankle show nothing beyond a sprain, but there is no timetable for the star point guard's return to the New Orleans Hornets. A team spokesman said Paul will be evaluated daily but remains out indefinitely.

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Ronaldo back with Madrid
Cristiano Ronaldo returned to regular training with Real Madrid yesterday as part of his recovery from a serious ankle injury. Ronaldo injured his right ankle on Sept. 30 but hasn't played since aggravating the problem while playing for Portugal on Oct. 10. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHN LOCHER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC fighter Brock Lesnar, pictured in a fight earlier this year, will require surgery for an intestinal disorder.

Lesnar's career in jeopardy

Ultimate Fighting heavyweight champion Brock Lesnar's fight career could be in jeopardy due to an intestinal illness that will require surgery, according to mixed martial arts impresario Dana White.

UFC president White told the TMZ website yesterday that Lesnar was "very, very sick" with an intestinal disorder that will require surgery, and that he will try to get the 32-year-old admitted to Minnesota's Mayo Clinic.

"I know what's wrong with him, he just doesn't want me talking about it."
UFC president Dana White

White said Lesnar, who was diagnosed with mononucleosis earlier this month, collapsed a week ago while resting at his Canadian vacation property and has since been hospitalized.

"There's a possibility Lesnar will never fight again," White told TMZ. Lesnar, who is 6-foot-3 and 265 pounds and has an outsized personality to match, has not been heard from for three weeks. He was to defend his heavyweight belt in January against Shane Carwin, but that bout, already rescheduled once before amid rumours that Lesnar had contracted the H1N1 virus, has again been put off.

"He's got mono and he's got something else wrong with him," White said Saturday after UFC 105 in England.

"I know what's wrong with him, he just doesn't want me talking about it. He doesn't have cancer or AIDS or anything like this, (but) he's got some problems, man."

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d-Washington	20	12	4	4	28
d-Buffalo	17	12	4	1	25
Pittsburgh	21	14	7	0	28
Philadelphia	17	11	5	1	23
NY Rangers	20	11	8	1	23
Boston	20	9	7	4	22
Tampa Bay	18	8	4	6	22

Atlanta	17	10	6	1	21
NY Islanders	21	7	7	7	21
Ottawa	17	8	6	3	19
Montreal	20	9	11	0	18
Florida	18	7	9	2	16
Toronto	18	3	10	5	11
Carolina	19	3	12	4	10

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	PT
d-San Jose	22	14	4	4	32
d-Colorado	20	12	5	3	27
d-Chicago	19	12	5	2	26
Los Angeles	22	13	7	2	28
CALGARY	**18**	**12**	**4**	**2**	**26**
Columbus	19	11	6	2	24
Detroit	18	10	5	3	23
Phoenix	20	11	9	0	22

Dallas	19	8	5	6	22
Vancouver	21	11	10	0	22
Nashville	18	9	8	1	19
Edmonton	21	8	10	3	19
St. Louis	18	6	8	4	16
Minnesota	20	7	11	2	16
Anaheim	19	6	10	3	15

YESTERDAY

Columbus 3 Edmonton 2 (SO)
Boston 4 N.Y. Islanders 1
Philadelphia 3 New Jersey 2
Pittsburgh 5 Anaheim 2
Los Angeles 4 Florida 3 (SO)
Tampa Bay 4 Phoenix 1

TODAY

Colorado at **CALGARY**
Toronto at Ottawa
Washington at N.Y. Rangers
Carolina at Montreal
San Jose at Nashville

d - division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points.

NFL

AFC

EAST

	W	L	T	PCT
New England	6	3	0	.667
Miami	4	5	0	.444
N.Y. Jets	4	5	0	.444
Buffalo	3	6	0	.333

SOUTH

	W	L	T	PCT
Indianapolis	9	0	0	1.000
Jacksonville	5	4	0	.556
Houston	5	4	0	.556
Tennessee	3	6	0	.333

NORTH

	W	L	T	PCT
Cincinnati	7	2	0	.778
Pittsburgh	6	3	0	.667
Baltimore	5	4	0	.556
Cleveland	1	8	0	.111

WEST

	W	L	T	PCT
Denver	6	3	0	.667
San Diego	6	3	0	.667
Kansas City	2	7	0	.222
Oakland	2	7	0	.222

NFC

EAST

	W	L	T	PCT
Dallas	6	3	0	.667
Philadelphia	5	4	0	.556
N.Y. Giants	5	4	0	.556
Washington	3	6	0	.333

SOUTH

	W	L	T	PCT
New Orleans	9	0	0	1.000
Atlanta	5	4	0	.556
Carolina	4	5	0	.444
Tampa Bay	1	8	0	.111

NORTH

	W	L	T	PCT
Minnesota	8	1	0	.889
Green Bay	5	4	0	.556
Chicago	4	5	0	.444
Detroit	1	8	0	.111

WEST

	W	L	T	PCT
Arizona	6	3	0	.667
San Francisco	4	5	0	.444
Seattle	3	6	0	.333
St. Louis	1	8	0	.111

SUNDAY

Arizona 31 Seattle 20
Carolina 28 Atlanta 19
Cincinnati 18 Pittsburgh 12
Green Bay 17 Dallas 7
Jacksonville 24 N.Y. Jets 22
Kansas City 16 Oakland 10
Miami 25 Tampa Bay 23
Minnesota 27 Detroit 10
New Orleans 28 St. Louis 23
San Diego 31 Philadelphia 23
Tennessee 41 Buffalo 17
Washington 27 Denver 17
Indianapolis 35 New England 34

YESTERDAY

Baltimore 16 Cleveland 0

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	8	3	.727	-
Toronto	5	5	.500	2.5
Philadelphia	4	6	.400	3.5
New York	1	9	.100	6.5
New Jersey	0	10	.000	7.5

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Atlanta	9	2	.818	-
Miami	7	2	.778	1
Orlando	8	3	.727	1
Charlotte	3	7	.300	5½
Washington	2	7	.222	6

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Cleveland	7	3	.700	-
Milwaukee	5	3	.625	1
Indiana	4	3	.571	1.5
Chicago	5	4	.556	1.5
Detroit	5	5	.500	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Dallas	8	3	.727	-
Houston	6	4	.600	1.5
San Antonio	4	4	.500	2.5
New Orleans	3	8	.273	3
Memphis	2	8	.200	5.5

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Denver	7	3	.700	-
Portland	8	4	.667	-
Oklahoma City	5	5	.500	2
Utah	4	6	.400	3
Minnesota	1	10	.091	6½

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Phoenix	9	2	.818	-
L.A. Lakers	7	3	.700	1.5
Sacramento	5	4	.556	3
L.A. Clippers	4	7	.364	5
Golden State	3	6	.333	5

YESTERDAY

Atlanta 99 Portland 95 (OT)
Orlando 97 Charlotte 91
Dallas 115 Milwaukee 113 (OT)

TODAY

Toronto at Denver
Golden State at Cleveland
Indiana at New Jersey
Oklahoma City at Miami
L.A. Clippers at New Orleans
Phoenix at Houston
Chicago at Sacramento
Detroit at L.A. Lakers

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Great Yoga Retreats

Arty publishing house Taschen is set to launch a compilation of "the finest Yoga retreat sites and centres, from Mexico to India via Tuscany and Big Sur." Pre-order Great Yoga Retreats by Kristin Rubesamen and Angelika Taschen for $31.49 at amazon.ca. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Health & Beauty

EDITOR: JENNIFER.PRITTIE@METRONEWS.CA

Chock full of charm

Pandora's Makeup Box strikes a lighthearted note

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

A new Canadian line of colour cosmetics is aiming to make a charming beauty impression with cheerfully feminine eco-responsible packaging, a wearable palette of hues and high-pigment formulas.

"I wanted it to be a happy line," says Pandora's Makeup Box creator Susan Kirsch, a successful makeup artist for 25 years and owner of Kirsch Cosmetic Studio in Toronto. "Why does makeup packaging have to be black?"

As well as pretty packaging, reducing potential waste was a key concern for Kirsch. Recyclable lipstick and gloss boxes have a plastic-free cutout window through which to see product shades.

Durable magnetized cardboard palettes are designed to outlast the pans of powder so they can be refilled and reused. The cardboard itself is composed of recycled materials and printed with soy ink, which is less environmentally stressful than regular ink and facilitates easier recycling.

And rather than enclose the compacts in boxes or shrinkwrap for shipping, Kirsch went for snug-fit removeable and recyclable cardboard bands.

Kirsch also considers waste at a manufacturing level. "I chose to work with a small lab so I could produce smaller batches of makeup," she says. "I wanted to reduce the chances of product sitting around on shelves until they expire."

When it came to creating her makeup shades, Kirsch took her diverse clientele into account.

A blush pink lipstick called Sweet is appropriate for her young Bat Mitzvah clients; bolder shades such as Beautiful, Flushed and So Real are designed for more mature women. XOXO, a peachy-pink gloss, is for women who usually can't wear pink because the natural undertone in their lips is too blue. Great is her only sheer gloss, a transparent red for women too shy for bold red lips. And a gloss called Ciao, which Kirsch admits looks strange in the tube, actually looks great on Asian faces because it works with the acidity in their skin.

"I have acidity issues myself — some colours turn really pink on my lips," says Kirsch. "I wear a peach-gold lipstick called Sexy with a gloss called Soft, a flattering nude shade I can also wear by itself."

Value was another important concern. Each disk of powder eye shadow or blush contains 4 grams, a generous amount for $18 each, or $14 each when composing an eye-and-cheek palette. "I used the same pan size for shadow and blush to make it easy to mix and match in the same compact," says Kirsch. And the highly pigmented formulas means the makeup wears well, and overall lasts the client a long time: she needs only a little to achieve a compliments-please finish.

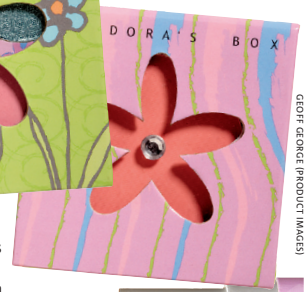
• Pandora's Makeup Box is available at Murale, mur ale.ca, and via Pandoras MakeupBox.com.

DOUG STURGEON/ECLIPSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Susan Kirsch, creator of Pandora's Makeup Box.

"I wanted it to be a happy line. Why does makeup packaging have to be black?"
Susan Kirsch, Pandora's Makeup Box creator

Left, custom palette: Empty compact, $10; eye shadow and blush, $14 each. Below, powder blush, $18.



GEOFF GEORGE (PRODUCT IMAGES)

Left, powder blush in Misty Pink, $18, is Kirsch's choice for women who like just a hint of cheek colour. Below left, Powder blush in Pout, $18, is a fresh pop of pink for all skintones, says Kirsch.

Lipstick in Sexy, $16

Lip gloss in Ciao, above, and Great, left; $16 each.

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STDs are still on the rise: U.S. officials

SEXUAL HEALTH Sexually spread diseases continue to rise, with reported chlamydia cases setting yet another record in 2008, government health officials in the U.S. said yesterday.

Last year there were 1.2 million new cases of chlamydia, a sometimes symptomless infection that can lead to infertility in women. It was the most ever reported, up from the old record of 1.1 million cases in 2007.

Better screening is the most likely reason, said Dr. John Douglas Jr. of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Syphilis, on the verge of being eliminated in the United States about 10 years ago, also has been increasing lately. About 13,500 cases of the most contagious form of the disease were reported in 2008, up from about 11,500 the year before.

Unlike chlamydia, health officials think syphilis cases actually are increasing. Syphilis rates are up among both gay men and heterosexuals, said Douglas, director of the CDC's Division of STD Prevention.

Syphilis can kill if untreated, but chlamydia is not life-threatening. Neither is gonorrhea, which seems to have plateaued in recent years. Gonorrhea cases dropped to about 337,000 cases in 2008, down from about 356,000 cases.

Girls, ages 15 through 19, had the largest reported number of chlamydia and gonorrhea cases, accounting for more than one in four of those cases. But they're often screened more than other people, since 1993 federal recommendations that emphasize testing for sexually active women age 25 and under.

The government estimates there are roughly 19 million new cases of sexually transmitted disease annually. Experts say the most common is HPV, human papillomavirus, which can cause genital warts, cervical cancer and other cancers.

The government doesn't ask doctors to report every HPV case, but estimates the virus causes 6.2 million new cases each year. That is an old estimate, based on data from 2000, before a vaccine against some types of HPV came on the market in 2006.

The CDC estimates there are 1.6 million new cases of genital herpes each year, but that too is an old estimate for a non-reportable disease. The agency also estimates there about 56,000 new cases of HIV each year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More online

• To see the CDC report, visit cdc.gov/std/stats.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

DON'T LET DRY SKIN FORCE YOU INTO HIBERNATION

Tips and suggestions for protecting your skin this winter

Dr. Kucy Pon

November is a month of transition. Cold, dry winds replace mild autumn temperatures, winter wardrobes are pulled out of storage and darkness emerges before the end of the workday. This adjustment can be trying, but it's not without its benefits – there's sexy boots to pull on, winter hats to cover bad hair days and holiday lights to hang up. That said Canadian winters are tough. Shorter days, colder nights, lack of sunlight and, let's not forget, the return of dry, itchy, flaky skin.

We might complain about the humidity in summer but at least it keeps our skin moist. Not so with Old Man Winter, whose low temperatures and biting winds can strip away the natural oils that coat and protect our skin's surface. Once the surface layer is compromised, skin can no longer retain its moisture. As a result, skin on the face and body tends to be in worse condition during the winter months than at other times of the year.

WHAT DOES WINTER SKIN LOOK LIKE?

Dry, itchy skin can appear anywhere on the body; but hands, arms, lower legs, elbows, back and abdomen are the most common areas. Often it feels like our skin is tightened (but not in a good way) or annoyingly itchy, but on some people, dry skin can be noticeable and very problematic.

In extreme cases, dry skin can lead to inflammation of the skin which can manifest as redness, swelling, crusting, weeping, cracks and fissures. These open cracks and fissures can lead to skin infection.

RELIEF IS IN SIGHT

So how do we combat dry, winter skin? Well, unfortunately, many of our coping strategies for harsh weather only make things worse. "In the winter, we tend to turn up the heat and take long baths or hot showers to warm ourselves up," says Dr. Kucy Pon, dermatologist and consultant to Olay. "While these activities might feel good, they can actually dehydrate the skin and wash away essential oils."

But don't fret. There's good news. Because the majority of factors that lead to dry skin are external and controllable, with care and attention, they can be treated and prevented.
According to Dr. Pon, the number one thing women can do to prevent dry winter skin is to use a good moisturizer. "A moisturizer has an immediate effect in terms of making surface skin feel better but it also performs several important functions, stresses Dr. Pon. "It enables lost water to be replaced, and then helps to keep it in the skin by the humectants it contains."

> 'The number one thing Canadians can do to prevent dry winter skin is to use a good moisturizer that relieves dry skin quickly'

This winter give your skin the clinical treatment it deserves with new Olay Quench Advanced Relief Body Lotion. Specifically formulated to help strengthen skin's moisture barrier over time, Quench Advanced Relief Body Lotion helps prevent dry skin from coming back helping to break the dry skin cycle. As well, Quench Advanced Relief provides moisture that lasts up to 24 hours, is dermatologist tested and clinically proven to moisturize and retain moisture for as long as five days after use. Formulated with ingredients that help combat dryness, including, VitaNiacin andVitamin E, Quench Advanced Relief is non-greasy and fragrance-free.

Dr. Pon's winter skin survival tips

Don't let dry skin force you into hibernation. Dr. Kucy Pon, dermatologist and consultant to Olay, shares her insider tips for keeping itchy, flaky skin at bay this winter.

1. MOISTURIZE DAMP SKIN

How you use a moisturizing lotion is as important as using the lotion itself. Optimum results come from applying lotion to damp skin which will help trap and seal in moisture. Moisturizing as soon as you step out of the shower is ideal.

2. PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR HANDS

While it's important to wash your hands to help prevent illness, soap and hand sanitizers can strip essential oils from the skin. Keep a hand lotion close by to replenish moisture.

3. CREATE AN OASIS

Put some moisture back into the air by using a humidifier in your home or office. It will counteract the drying effects of indoor heat.

4. DRINK LOTS OF WATER

Increase your body's natural moisture level by staying hydrated throughout the day.

5. KEEP WRAPPED UP

Dress for the season and try to limit your skin's exposure to harsh temperatures and damaging winds.

OLAY®

Women still cook more

According to an Associated Press-iVillage Food poll, women are still doing more of the cooking. Just 51 per cent of men said they make a home-cooked meal at least sometimes, compared with 71 per cent of women. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Food

'Love dessert' contains Viagra

A Colombian cooking school has concocted a "love dessert" made with passion fruit — and Viagra. Student chefs at the state culinary school in Quindio province wouldn't give the complete ingredients but say it contains the active ingredient in Viagra. The pudding-like dessert is garnished with whipped cream and chocolate, and served in a parfait glass. The dessert is, of course, not for sale as Viagra is a prescription drug. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian Living magazine is on sale now!

Canadian Living recipe of the month

A low-fat weeknight meal option

EDWARD POND

Broiled trout with warm lentil salad from Canadian Living.

Broiled Trout with Warm Lentil Salad

SERVES 4
PREP TIME: 6 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 30 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 tsp each ground coriander and cumin (2 mL)
- 1/4 tsp each cayenne pepper and salt (1 mL)
- 2 skinless trout fillets (750 g)
- 2 lemon wedges

Warm Lentil Salad:

- 3 Tbsp olive oil (45 mL)
- 1 cup diced leek (white and light green parts only, 250 mL)
- 1/2 cup each diced celery and carrot (125 mL)
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 tsp each ground coriander, cumin and salt (2 mL)
- 1 cup dried green lentils (250 mL)
- 1/4 cup minced fresh celery leaves and/or (50 mL)
- coriander leaves
- 3 Tbsp lemon juice (45 mL)

METHOD:

1. Warm Lentil Salad: In large saucepan, heat 1 tbsp (15 mL) of the oil over medium heat; cook leek, celery, carrot, garlic, coriander, cumin and salt until softened, about 5 minutes.
2. Stir in 3 cups (750 mL) water; cover and bring to boil. Add lentils; reduce heat and simmer until tender, 25 to 30 minutes. Drain and transfer to bowl. Add remaining oil, celery leaves and lemon juice; toss to combine.
3. Meanwhile, in small bowl, combine coriander, cumin, cayenne and salt; rub over top of trout fillets. Broil on greased baking sheet until fish flakes easily when tested, 6 to 8 minutes. Serve with lemon wedges and salad.

Per serving: about 499 cal, 46 g pro, 21 g total fat (4 g sat. fat), 34 g carb, 7 g fibre, 90 mg chol, 516 mg sodium, 1,233 mg potassium.

Gingersnap Cookies

MAKES ABOUT 48 COOKIES

A gluten- and nut-free dessert

For gluten-free baking, we use Bob's Red Mill Gluten-Free All-Purpose Baking Flour. Look for it in health food stores or the organic section of grocery stores.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/3 cup unsalted butter, softened (75 mL)
- 1 1/3 cups granulated sugar (325 mL)
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup fancy molasses (50 mL)
- 2 1/2 cups gluten-free all-purpose baking flour (625 mL)
- 1 1/2 tsp ground ginger (7 mL)
- 1 tsp baking soda (5 mL)
- 1 tsp each ground cloves and cinnamon (5 mL)
- pinch salt

METHOD:

1. In large bowl, beat butter with 1 cup (250 mL) of the sugar; beat in egg and molasses. In separate bowl, whisk together baking flour, ginger, baking soda, cloves, cinnamon and salt; stir into butter mixture to form stiff dough.
2. Roll dough by level 1 tbsp (15 mL) into balls; roll in remaining sugar. Place, 2 inches (5 cm) apart, on parchment paper–lined baking sheets; press to flatten slightly.
3. Bake in 350°F (180°C) oven until edges are light golden, about 12 minutes. Transfer to rack; let cool. (Make-ahead: Store in airtight container for up to 5 days or freeze for up to 2 weeks).

Per cookie: about 61 cal, 1 g pro, 2 g total fat (1 g sat. fat), 12 g carb, 1 g fibre, 7 mg chol, 28 mg sodium, 29 mg potassium.

online

For more Tested-Till-Perfect recipes, visit canadianliving.com

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell

metronews.ca/liquidassets

Version 2009

I can't think of a more polarizing style of wine than **Beaujolais Nouveau**. Made from quickly pressed gamay grape juice in France's Beaujolais region; it's the first liquid released from the northern hemisphere's 2009 harvest. Air freighted to wine shops the world over — who promise not to sell any until the third Thursday of November (which is this Thursday) — it's either revered or reviled by wine fans.

While there's no denying that its arrival brings some much needed attention to the floundering French wine industry; the hype — that convinced folks to line up for a bottle back in the '70s — has been diluted considerably by wet blanket snobs who can't see the fun past the marketing plan.

Though always light and super fruity; Georges Duboeuf, the undisputed king of Beaujolais, claims that thanks to some great weather Nouveau version 2009 will be one of the best in the last 50 years.

Selection across the country will vary with wines from producers like Duboeuf, Pierre André, Mommessin and Albert Bichot averaging around **$13 to $16**. Be sure to serve them chilled.

King marries his queen
Kings of Leon drummer Nathan Followill has wed his girlfriend, singer/songwriter Jessie Baylin. They tied the knot on the weekend in Tennessee in front of close friends and family, including Scarlett Johansson. **USMAGAZINE.COM**

Entertainment

Crown jewel

Bragelina have completed a limited edition collection of gold jewelry and silver accessories called The Protector for high-end jeweler Asprey.
USMAGAZINE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Vampires to dominate holidays

Post-apocalyptic worlds, Fantastic foxes and Sherlock Holmes slated for big screen

Movie **feature**

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

As we move into the final few weeks of 2009, there is much to occupy people's minds — namely Christmas.

But along with the perennial pursuit of great gifts comes the annual boon of box-office hits and this year's choices will be no different.

Whether you get your kicks from brooding vampires, a foxy George Clooney or musicals based from avant-garde films — the forthcoming holiday movie season has something for everyone to enjoy. Here is a glimpse at what is upcoming:

TWILIGHT: NEW MOON
(Nov. 20)
The holiday season kicks off with the hotly-anticipated second installment of the Twilight saga featuring vampire Edward and his girlfriend now caught in a love triangle with a teenaged werewolf.
Seriously.

FANTASTIC MR. FOX
(Nov. 25)
Wes Anderson (Rushmore) tries his hand at animation with help from George Clooney as an adventure-seeking fox in this quirky adaptation of Roald Dahl's classic children's book.

WETA

Sam Worthington, left as Jake Sully and Zoë Saldana as Neytiri star in Avatar.

THE ROAD
(Nov. 27)
In this critically-acclaimed reworking of the Pulitzer-Prize winning novel, Viggo Mortensen tries to protect his son in a post-apocalyptic world where food may be scarce but this year's Oscar nominations will be plentiful.

UP IN THE AIR
(Dec. 4)
George Clooney makes another appearance (and may just nab a second Oscar) in this clever comedy about a downsizing expert whose own flighty lifestyle gets grounded.

ALEX BAILEY

Jude Law, left, as Dr. Watson and Robert Downey Jr. as Sherlock Holmes star in the action/adventure mystery Sherlock Holmes.

THE LOVELY BONES
(Dec. 11)
Peter Jackson (Lord of the Rings) adapts this hit novel about a murdered young girl who watches her family from heaven. I'm fairly certain Gollum doesn't make an appearance.

AVATAR
(Dec. 18)
It's been a decade since James Cameron's Titanic. Now the Oscar-winning filmmaker gets back to his sci-fi roots with this cutting edge thriller that's cost over $200 million to produce. Let's hope it doesn't sink like…well, you know.

ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SEQUEL
(Dec 25)
The animated pop-singing rodents are back to save a struggling high school music program. To clear any uncertainty, this is not a documentary.

SHERLOCK HOLMES
(Dec. 25)
Robert Downey Jr. gives the legendary character a facelift in this Guy Ritchie-film. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle would be proud.

NINE
(Dec. 25)
Rob Marshall (Chicago) directs this musical version of Fellini's classic film 8 ½. With an ensemble cast that includes Daniel Day Lewis and Nicole Kidman, Nine will surely make Millions at the box office this Christmas.

McCartney wins his 3rd Gershwin

AWARD The Library of Congress is awarding Paul McCartney its third Gershwin Prize for Popular Song.

Librarian of Congress James Billington announced the prize yesterday. An all-star tribute concert is planned for spring next year, though the library hasn't announced who will perform.

Paul McCartney

Billington says it's hard to think of another performer and composer who has had a more transformative effect than McCartney. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Germany reviews extortion scheme

SUPERMODEL German prosecutors say they are opening an investigation against a man suspected of trying to extort money from former supermodel Cindy Crawford and her family in the United States.

Edis Kayalar, has been charged in the U.S. with trying to extort $100,000 from Crawford and her entrepreneur husband Rande Gerber by threatening to release a photo of their daughter bound to a chair and gagged when she was seven. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Sigourney sued
Sigourney Weaver has been named in a $5 million US lawsuit involving a cosmetics company. The Alien actress is a minority shareholder in the business, and owner Vincent Longo is being sued by Anthony Minuto after a transaction between the pair turned sour. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Heartthrobs a girl's best fantasy

Hollywood crushes are often teen's first taste of love

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

GETTY IMAGES

From James Dean, left, to Johnny Depp, centre, to Robert Pattinson, Hollywood has delivered handsome heartthrobs that any girl could love in the privacy of their bedrooms.

Fifteen-year-old Chloe Bates is in love.

A 10th-grader at an all-girls Catholic school, she lights up when she talks about her handsome 17-year-old honey. Chloe doesn't know too many boys, so she still gets a nervous, buzzy feeling whenever she thinks about HIM. Her friends know all about this guy — he's a regular text and telephone topic between school, homework and dance practice.

Chloe keeps a few pictures of him on her bedroom wall, scattered among snapshots of her and her friends. She also writes about him in her journal. But she can't really get close to him. It's like he doesn't know she exists.

Chloe is in love with Taylor Lautner, one of the hunky stars of the Twilight films. And she's not alone.

Girls have been falling in love with movie stars since the dawn of cinema. When teenagers became Tinseltown's prime marketing target, Hollywood delivered handsome heartthrobs any girl could love.

James Dean. Frankie Avalon. David Cassidy. Rick Springfield. Johnny Depp. There are teen icons for every generation. For Chloe and millions of girls around the world, it's Lautner and Robert Pattinson of New Moon, the latest instalment in the Twilight series.

These girls aren't just experiencing a movie-star crush, they're participating in a uniquely female rite of passage: The birth of romantic fantasy. And today's technology — online fan forums, Twitter — lets them get closer than ever.

Before real boyfriends and first kisses, girls' imaginary relationships with their heartthrobs provide a precursor to adult romance — a love before they know what love might be.

"They're practising feelings of love and attachment and attraction and romance," says Los Angeles psychologist Wendy Walsh, whose own 11-year-old daughter also loves Lautner. "These are all new feelings, and what a safe way to play them out — in the privacy of their own room with a poster of Taylor Lautner."

The Twilight series itself is about first love. New Moon centres on Bella Swan, an ordinary teenager in love with the mysterious Edward Cullen (Pattinson), who comes from a family of vampires. Edward is romantic and otherworldly, and though he literally hungers for her, he's gentle and protective. But he leaves and Bella finds comfort with her loyal, longtime friend Jacob Black (Lautner), whom she later discovers belongs to a lineage of werewolves.

"It would be so fun to be Bella," Chloe says wistfully. "I love the idea of having two super-hot mythical creatures fighting over me. I just think that would be incredible."

Pattinson and Lautner may be slightly sexier than teen idols past, but they're cut from the same teen-heartthrob cloth as their predecessors: Smooth-faced stars who seem wholesome — and just a touch away from attainable.

"It would be so fun to be (Twilight's) Bella. I love the idea of having two super-hot mythical creatures fighting over me."
Chloe Bates, 17

Heidi Hurst, executive editor of teen pinup magazine Tiger Beat, notes that since the magazine was established in 1965, the guys on its pages have been "non-threatening, more on the boyish side of good looks." The November issue features Lautner and Pattinson on the cover.

Most Tiger Beat readers, who range in age from 8 to 16, "still aren't dating boys in real life and this is their first exposure to boys as in 'They're cute. I like them,'" Hurst says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mariah's Christmas hit remixed
Mariah Carey's hit All I Want for Christmas Is You has been remixed by Joey Arbagey for its 15th anniversary. The song was the first single of Carey's 1994 album, Merry Christmas. **POPEATER.COM**

Forever or nothing

Canadian R&B star Massari ready to take over world

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

When Metro last talked to Massari three years ago, he was regaling us about what would make a perfect date. His included a steak dinner, rose petals on the bed and Boyz II Men playing in the background. These days, it would consist of popcorn, a movie and snuggling on the couch with sweat pants on.

It's an unlikely answer from, all appearances to the contrary, a deceptively uncomplicated and driven man.

Upon listening to the release of sophomore effort Forever Massari, released last Tuesday in Canada and slated for international audiences today, one would suspect the Beirut-via-Ottawa R&B artist to be obsessed with pizzazz, and the desire to lay down a driving, edgy club beat.

It's certainly seems to be the case with lead-off single Body Body, wherein Massari (born Sari Abboud) samples 1987 dance track Push It by Salt N' Pepa.

But the latest release is just one aspect of the empire for which he wants to be known, one which includes a clothing line, charity work and a signature cologne by this time next year.

"My goal for this album is my goal for everything else I want to do — global domination," he said.

"I have a philosophy of 'expect nothing, get everything' and I'm hoping for the best. I haven't stopped working since my first album (2006's Massari, which went gold in Canada), although that work has been in different areas. I'm making sure people know that was the groundwork for what I'm doing now. I have my hands in everything and I like it that way."

A grand plan lies beneath the infamously chin-strapped exterior — a beard style he left behind after attending too many Halloween parties full of people dressed as him — one that Massari has, up to this point, been executing with modest success, growing from independent artist to major-label-backed Canadian star with some international notice.

Besides the fact he can sing in three languages (English, French and Arabic) and has rarely met an old school beat he didn't like, Massari, whose name translates to "money" from Middle Eastern slang, credits its flashy designer clothing, jewelry and cars as a huge chunk of the appeal. Tools for the greater goal of leaving something to remember, he says.

"Well, I don't half-ass anything," he laughs.

Massari has returned with a new album, Forever Massari.

"My goal for this album is my goal for everything else I want to do — global domination."
Massari

"These are all tools to accomplish my mission. To be successful in the business, you have to have these things, but of course none of it is real, or the real you. Money doesn't dictate my life, the work and the results do."

When I leave this world, I'll leave with nothing. And, God willing, it will be my deeds, accomplishments and actions that will count for something. We'll remember people who were feared, for all the wrong reasons, but we remember people who were loved even more. That's what I care about."

GETTY IMAGES

Two members of electronica pioneers Kraftwerk in concert.

Kraftwerk re-wired

CAM LINDSAY
for Metro Canada

When you're 40 years into a career, it's only fair that you're afforded the opportunity to go back and right any outstanding wrongs. After decades of waiting, Kraftwerk's Ralf Hütter has finally been given his chance with the reissue of the group's last eight albums.

"I don't want to complain but some of the catalogue was never in the quality that it should have been," says the only remaining original member of the group. "It was a nightmare."

To be issued next week both individually and as a box set titled The Catalogue, Hütter now feels Kraftwerk's music can be appreciated the way it was supposed to be. "We reworked the masters, so for the first time they are remastered with the latest technology in our Kling Klang studio," he explains. "So we're very happy that for the first time the albums come in the formats with all of the artwork, like they were originally conceived."

Considered as influential on modern music as The Beatles, the pioneering electronic act from Düsseldorf, Germany can be heard in music of everyone from David Bowie and New Order to Madonna and Coldplay. But Hütter downplays Kraftwerk's impact beyond the work he and his various collaborators have put into the music.

"We called ourselves musical workers, and we just did our work with electronics," he says. "Music and technology for us were like a unit, always, and we just continued our work from there."

Hütter can't take all the credit though — there are those iconic robot mannequins that have represented the look and sound of the band all these years.

Whether it's the music or the robots people remember Kraftwerk for, Hütter says he and coworkers aren't done innovating. Earlier this year they began presenting the second half of their concert in 3-D, and in Manchester invited the British Olympic cycling team to ride on a track during a performance of their hit song Tour De France. New music is also expected at some point.

In brief

ALBUM Pope Benedict XVI sings and prays along to a mix of modern music and ancient church chants in a new album that will be released soon. The album, titled Alma Mater — Music from the Vatican, includes eight original pieces of contemporary music, interwoven with Gregorian chants and the pope's voice.

IDOLS Kris Allen knows he's not garnering as much attention as Adam Lambert — and that's OK with him. "I don't mind," an always modest Allen says. His self-titled album comes out today, a week before Lambert's For Your Entertainment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Breast implants are Christian: Prejean

Ousted Miss California USA Carrie Prejean has something to get off her chest: She isn't a bad Christian because she got implants. "No, I don't think there's anything wrong with getting breast implants as a Christian," she told Christianity Today. USMAGAZINE.COM

Janet blames doctor for Michael's sudden death

INTERVIEW Janet Jackson blames Dr. Conrad Murray for her brother Michael's death.

Janet Jackson

She told ABC News in an interview to air Wednesday that Murray should no longer be allowed to practice medicine. Murray faces manslaughter charges for the pop star's death this summer. A spokeswoman for the doctor, Miranda Sevcik said yesterday he continues to maintain he neither prescribed or administered anything to Jackson that should have killed him.

Jackson told ABC's Robin Roberts that she recalled her shock when at her home in New York her assistant called to say Michael had been taken to the hospital.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DVD picks

Star Trek

Director: J.J. Abrams

PHASERS SET ON "STUN-NING." This is the Star Trek true fans have been missing, but barely dared hope for: a return to the original characters, in all their giddy glory and with all their hilarious hubris.

Director J.J. Abrams delivers a solid reboot to series creator Gene Roddenberry's 1960s ideas about life in "space: the final frontier."

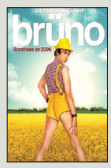
This is either Star Trek movie No. 11 or 1, depending on whether you count it as the 11th in the series or the first in a new prequel franchise. Either way, it easily overcomes the curse that odd-numbered Star Trek movies are generally the worst.

This one ranks right up there with such character-driven triumphs as The Wrath of Khan and The Voyage Home. The special effects are seamless.

The casting is all aces. The emphasis was wisely placed on talent (including good comic timing) rather than on marquee recognition or resemblance to the original cast — although in some cases, the likeness is uncanny. By boldly going back to where it all began, Abrams has taken Star Trek exactly where it belongs.

Extras are extreme, including nine deleted scenes, a director commentary, a gag reel and several making-of featurettes.

Brüno



Director: Larry Charles

AS ANY COMEDIAN WILL TELL YOU, IT'S HARD TO TELL THE SAME JOKE TWICE. That's the situation with Brüno, in which the abundantly gifted and remarkably brave (or crazy) Sacha Baron Cohen once again attempts mass deception for comic purposes. His title character in Borat came across as a harmless doofus confronting a foreign land and culture, and benefited mightily from Cohen's lack of renown. Most people didn't know they were being played for laughs.

He's neither harmless nor anonymous this time out. Cohen's Brüno, an Austrian fashionista with minor talent and major attitude, has just one big dumb prank to play about being gay, and he does so to the point of numbness. Gays and straights can feel equally offended, but also equally bored.

Cohen needs to move on to another brand of comedy that better serves him.

The numerous DVD extras include commentary by Cohen and director Larry Charles in which they reveal who was in on the joke — including Harrison Ford, who appeared to be one of the few spontaneously hilarious reactions to Brüno's antics.

How to Be

Director: Oliver Irving

INEPTLY WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY OLIVER IRVING, THIS DIRECT-TO-DVD COMEDY HAS LITTLE GOING FOR IT APART FROM ROBERT PATTINSON, BETTER KNOWN AS VAMPIRE EDWARD IN THE TWILIGHT SERIES. Here he's saddo Art, a London wannabe singer-songwriter whose lack of musicianship is matched by his poor self-esteem. When his girlfriend dumps him and his parents ignore him, Art finds himself in the midst of a "quarter-life crisis."

He cashes in an inheritance to hire Canadian self-help guru Dr. Levi Ellington (Powell Jones), who crosses the Pond to live with him and teach him how to "be more normal."

The rich comic premise is never remotely realized. All of the secondary characters are poorly drawn or entirely loathsome. Yet Pattinson impresses in a difficult role, which makes this a worthwhile rental for any Twilight fan seeking another look at the man behind Edward.

Extras include a director's commentary, an interview with Pattinson and a making-of featurette.

Peter Howell/for Metro Canada

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
11/17/09 primetime	267	351 - ACCESS	Alberta Primetime (Live)		Wife Swap		So You Think You Can Dance Fourteen dancers perform.				Primetime
	243	317 3 CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	Law & Order: SVU		V "A Bright New Day"		Dancing With the Stars		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	The Office	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Metropia
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	V "A Bright New Day"		Dancing With the Stars		the forgotten
	245	306 6 CBRT	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	22 Minutes	Being Erica (N) (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338 7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	The Good Wife (N)		NCIS "Power Down" (N)		NCIS: Los Angeles (N)		News Hour
	246	- 8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		The Jay Leno Show (N)		30 Rock	The Biggest Loser (N)			Your City
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	508	502 31 CNN2	The Joy Behar Show		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		The Joy Behar Show		Nancy Grace
sports	400	400 21 TSN	NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Denver Nuggets. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre		Motorcycle Racing: Supercross	
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	557	541 39 FAM	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School
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	603	561 25 FOOD	The F Word (N)		Good Eats	Good Eats	Iron Chef America		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	The F Word
	615	520 26 A&E	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	(10:01) Criminal Minds		Parking Wars
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	601	562 33 SLICE	Wedding SOS	Wedding SOS	Bulging Brides	Bulging Brides	ET Canada	What Happen?	The Biggest Loser		Find-Husband
	-	633 34 ENC2	Filmography	(7:25) *Once in a Blue Moon* (1995, Fantasy)			*Running on Empty* ★★★ (1988, Drama) Christine Lahti.				*Family Bus.*
	520	505 35 DISC	Destroyed	Destroyed	Time Warp Metallica. (N)		Daily Planet		Destroyed	Destroyed	Time Warp
	620	523 36 BRAVO	*Glenn Gould: Hereafter* (2005, Documentary)				Law & Order		Without a Trace		*Just a Little*
	294	650 40 WPCH	Law & Order: SVU		*Men in Black* ★★★ (1997, Comedy) Tommy Lee Jones.				*Men in Black* ★★★ (1997, Comedy)		
	626	547 41 COM	Just for Laughs		Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Jeff Dunham
	-	539 42 TCM	(6) *Once Upon a Time in the West* (1969, Western)				*8 1/2* ★★★★ (1963, Fantasy) Marcello Mastroianni, Claudia Cardinale.				
	628	584 43 SPIKE	Super Dave	Ultimate Knockouts 7 (HDTV)		Super Dave	UFC Unleashed (HDTV)		Real Vice	Real Vice	CSI: Crime Scn
	522	516 45 HIST	Ultimate Engineering		Ancient Discoveries		Cities of the Underworld		Cities of the Underworld		Engineering
	627	528 46 SPACE	Medium (HDTV) (N)		Fringe (HDTV) (N)		InnerSpace (N)	Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Next Gener.	
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) The Prisoner (HDTV) (N)		The Prisoner "Schizoid; Checkmate" (HDTV)				*Force 10 From Navarone* (1978, War)		
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	269	350 93 APTN	Fish Out of	Mixed Blessing	Cashing In	Rabbit Fall	First Nation	Moose TV	Rez Rides	Moccasin Flats	Short Cuts
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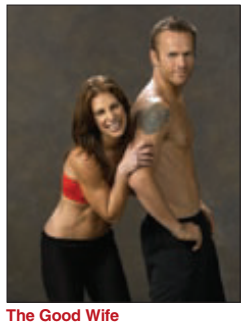
	581	566 102 MTV	The City	The Hills	The Hills	After	MTV Live	Sex, News-Roll	The City	The City	The Hills
	-	- 116 TV5	(6) Pékin express		Avenirs	Hors série	TV5 Le Journal	L'Objet du scandale			

critics' corner

The Biggest Loser
Fashion consultant Tim Gunn and hairstylist Tabatha Coffey help give the remaining six contestants makeovers. The contestants reveal their new looks to their loved ones, then face a high-flying challenge that will earn the winner a two-week trip to a fitness resort in southern Utah. 9:30 PM on CKAL KHQ



The Good Wife
Alicia is caught off guard when Peter needs her to testify on his behalf in his appeals process, just as she is preparing to defend a scientist accused of arson in the new episode "Unprepared." Christine Baranski and Josh Charles also star; Joe Morton and Peter Riegert guest star. 8 PM on CICT; 11 PM on KREM

Being Erica
Erica is unimpressed to discover that Kai (Sebastian Pigott) is a case-study volunteer for the sex book she's working on. A trip back in time to see her deceased brother, Leo (Devon Bostick), also leaves her disillusioned when she sees a different side of him. She returns ready to confront her feelings for Kai in the new episode "A River Runs Through It ... It Being Egypt." 9 PM on CBRT

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From bibs to bras
Heidi Klum isn't letting the recent birth of her fourth child stop her from getting back to work. The supermodel mom will be hosting the Victoria's Secret lingerie show, according to Page Six. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Speidi-Roker showdown on hold

AS MINUTE SIXTEEN APPROACHES Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag never got their rematch with the Today show's Al Roker, usmagazine.com reports.

The pair were expected on the NBC morning talk show Monday morning to promote their new book, How to Be Famous: Our Guide to Looking the Part, Playing the Press, and Becoming a Tabloid Fixture.

"Due to a change in the show's schedule, we had to cancel the interview with Spencer and Heidi Pratt," a Today show rep tells usmagazine.com.

When the pair appeared on the show this past June, Montag said Roker made her cry with his harsh line of questioning. He also took Pratt to task, telling him that people think he acts like a "jerk."

After their awkward chat, Roker took to Twitter to continue criticizing the pair.

"Heidi and Spencer are an interesting couple. famous for...being infamous," he Twittered. "Bad and vacuous behavior. I think we're at minute 11 of their 15."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Yes, Twilight stars are an item dishes director

THE SOUND OF A MILLION TWIHEARTS BREAKING In an interview with Time, Twilight director Catherine Hardwicke commented on the rumored relationship between stars Kristen Stewart and Rob Pattinson — a subject the young actors have refused to speak about publicly, ew.com reports.

"In terms of what Kristen told me directly, it didn't happen on the first movie," said Hardwick. "Nothing crossed the line while on the first film. I think it took a long time for Kristen to realize, O.K., I've got to give this a go and really try to be with this person."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Wife kicks Letterman out?

NOW DAVE'S ON THE COUCH After the uproar about David Letterman's affair with a female staffer, his wife Regina Letterman has reportedly kicked him out of the house, forcing him to stay at his Manhattan loft, a source tells the National Enquirer.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Winehouse a real 'doll'

PLASTIC SURGERY REHAB? Amy Winehouse's new obsession with plastic surgery shows no signs of abating, sources tell the Sun. And she's reportedly already chosen what to augment next. "Everyone tells her there's nothing wrong with her nose, but Amy does nothing by halves," a source tells the newspaper.

"Since changing her boobs Amy has been scrutinizing her body. She loves all the compliments and wolf whistles she gets from her new figure. She's been sketching lots of drawings of herself and wants to bring out a doll for fans."

METRO WORLD NEWS

File this under 'Icky'

LIKE FATHER LIKE DAUGHTER Former Scores strip club owner Elliot Osher is more than happy to dish on his past celebrity clientele, telling Rush & Molloy that Madonna once stiffed the staff, while Bruce Willis and Demi Moore treated the dancers like equals when they visited.

But the most shocking anecdote concerns Michael Lohan: "Lindsay Lohan's father once sat down and described the kind of dancer he was looking for," Osher alleges. "We sent some girls over. Funny, they all seemed to look like Lindsay. We ended up having to show him to the door."

Osher claims that Lindsay herself stopped by. "The next week, Lindsay wanted to meet the girls who'd danced for her dad."

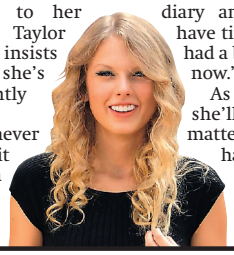
METRO WORLD NEWS

Swift still a single gal?

TEENS SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS Despite being spotted all over town together with New Moon star Taylor Lautner — and even introducing him to her mother — Taylor Swift insists that she's currently single.

"I've never thought it was a curse to be single," she says. "At this point in my life, I'm in the mind-set where I choose to be single — like I got to light scented candles and write in my diary and I wouldn't have time for that if I had a boyfriend right now."

As for Lautner, all she'll say on the matter is, "He and I have gotten really close. METRO WORLD NEWS



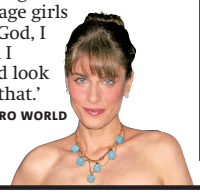
Peet ponders her own mortality

ANOTHER HOLLYWOOD SAG STORY Amanda Peet admits that she's powerless to stop the march of time. "It's not really working," she tells Parade magazine about her attempts to thwart the aging process.

"I'll be at the gym and I'll start thinking, 'What am I doing? I'm going to sag no matter what I do.'"

And, Peet says, her industry isn't helping matters. "I mean, someone with a figure like Jennifer Aniston has a trainer, a cook spinning out some version of the latest diet, and probably a stop at the tanning salon. Then teenage girls go, 'God, I wish I could look like that.'

METRO WORLD NEWS



Celebrity tweets

Kathy Griffin gives herself a little extra celebration, Ricky Martin has an incredible tolerance for toddler tinkling, and Perez Hilton suffers for his art.

• @officialkathyg
I admit it. I had a "secret cake" 4 my bday that I just finished. Yeah, 1 cake 4 friends and another 1 stored in the fridge 4 me. SUCK IT!

• @ricky_martin
the sound of the piano fills the house.played by minifingers.i wonder if my son is a pianist hehe

• @Perez Hilton
The price of glamour: glitter is EVERYWHERE now! But it was so worth it!

METRO WORLD NEWS

TELUS Tuesdays presents
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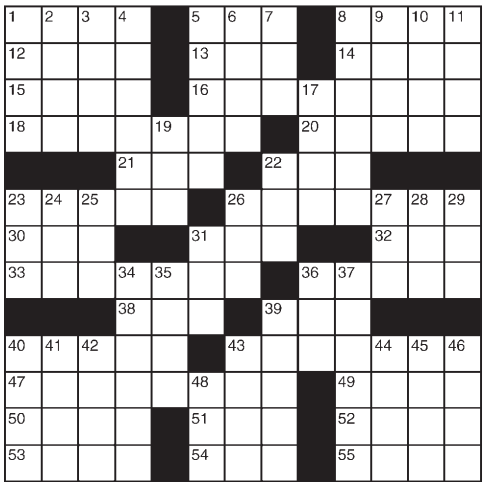
*½ price means approximately half of the combined price of one regular adult admission, one regular-sized fountain soft drink and one regular-sized standard popcorn. Prices may vary by market or by Cineplex theatre. The ½ Price Movie Combo is subject to applicable taxes. For conditions and restrictions, please visit Cineplex.com. TELUS and the TELUS logo are trademarks of TELUS Corporation, used under licence. Cineplex Entertainment LP, used under license. © 2009 TELUS.

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today Sunny 12 C / -1 C
Wednesday Mostly sunny 6 C / -3 C
Thursday Mostly sunny 4 C / -8 C

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta."
WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.

Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		3	4	7		2		6
1		9	3					5
	4							
9		1			8			
		5				3		
			5			8		7
							6	
4					3	5		2
7		8		2	6	1		

ACROSS

1 Automaker Ransom Eli —
5 Wager
8 Footnote abbr.
12 Source
13 "That feels so good!"
14 Protuberance
15 Albacore, e.g.
16 Genesis subject
18 Depot
20 Water trench
21 Coffee vessel
22 Part of TGIF
23 Invigorating
26 Speech
30 "— the ramparts ..."
31 Pair
32 Diary writer Anais
33 Round of applause, e.g.
36 "I give up!"
38 Hostel
39 Work with
40 Sends forth
43 Rapture
47 Holiday from work
49 Base runner's goal
50 Paradise
51 "CSI" evidence
52 Basin accessory
53 Cincinnati team
54 Ukr. or Lith., once
55 McNally partner

DOWN

1 Leftovers
2 Lummox
3 Lisbon lady
4 Rank in a hierarchy
5 Quiche Lorraine ingredient
6 Deserve
7 Commonest English word
8 Just know
9 Seethe
10 "American —"
11 Say it ain't so
17 Taj Mahal city
19 Annoy
22 To and —
23 Greet the villain
24 Gun the engine
25 401(k) alternative
26 Possess
27 Letterhead abbr.
28 Lubricate
29 Away from SSW
31 Heavy weight
34 Tennessee NFLers
35 "Meet Me — Louis"
36 NAFTA contributor
37 Situated below
39 Of an arm bone
40 Always
41 Put together
42 On the rocks
43 Awfully long time
44 Hawkeyes' home
45 Portent
46 Geeky sort
48 Egos' counterparts

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

7	1	8	3	6	2	9	4	5
2	6	9	7	4	5	8	1	3
4	3	5	8	9	1	2	7	6
3	9	1	4	2	8	6	5	7
8	2	4	5	7	6	1	3	9
5	7	6	9	1	3	4	2	8
6	5	7	1	8	4	3	9	2
9	4	2	6	3	7	5	8	1
1	8	3	2	5	9	7	6	4

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Cinnamon-mustard Chicken with Sweet Potatoes and Peppers

INGREDIENTS:
2 tbsp (25 ml) wholegrain mustard
2 tsp (10 ml) ground cinnamon
1 cup (250 ml) apple juice
8 skinless, boneless chicken thighs
4 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into chunky wedges
4 onions, quartered
2 red peppers, quartered lengthwise
2 yellow peppers, quartered lengthwise
2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil

METHOD:
1. Preheat oven to 460°F (240°C). Mix mustard, cinnamon and apple juice in large ovenproof dish or roasting pan. Add chicken, turning pieces over to coat in apple dressing. Set aside.
2. Put sweet potato wedges in large pot. Pour in boiling water to cover and boil 5 minutes.
3. Drain sweet potatoes, then add to chicken with onions and peppers. Turn all vegetables in dressing to coat evenly, then turn chicken thighs once more and leave them skinned side up.
4. Season ingredients to taste and drizzle over oil. Roast 20 minutes or until chicken and vegetables are cooked and well browned. Test chicken by piercing thickest part with point of knife; juices should run clear, not pink. Serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Try to be a bit more secretive, especially if you are working on something that requires the surprise to be successful.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Stop worrying that you are not doing enough in the world. You're doing plenty. Today's Mercury-Saturn link indicates that success will be yours.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You seem to have the knack of making a little go a long way, and that applies to your emotions as well as to your money.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Today's cosmic picture will help you wield the axe and cut back on the things in your life that are no longer important.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
What you are being asked to do may seem boring but if you do it well the rewards will be worth the effort.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
There is rather a lot going on behind the scenes at the moment, so don't make any plans because they are sure to change over the next few days.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
There is no point trying to force a confrontation with someone you don't get along with today.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You may think the worst is going to happen but you should know by now that is precisely the sort of attitude that encourages bad things to occur.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
A Mercury-Saturn link means your efforts will pay off in some way over the next 24 hours. That applies to all areas of your life, especially to friendships.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You may not much enjoy what happens today but if you accept it as part of life's rich tapestry it won't seem so bad.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Most of the time you are pretty easygoing but today you will want everything to be perfect, and if it isn't then those you deem responsible will pay.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Aim to keep things simple today, because the more complicated you allow your life to get the more likely it is you will make a mistake.

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Jan. 9 – 30 • 1 wk.
$1029
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $274

Jamaica
Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort & Spa • 4★
All-Inclusive • Standard rm.
Jan. 4, 11, 18 & 25 • 1 wk.
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$1169
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $270

Santa Clara
Barceló Cayo Santa Maria Beach Resort • 4★
All-Inclusive • Junior suite
Dec. 23 • 1 wk.
$1379
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $218

Cancun / Riviera Maya
Royal Solaris Cancun • 4★
All-Inclusive
Deluxe lagoon view rm.
Jan. 31 • 1 wk.
$1159
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $251

Gran Bahia Principe Jamaica • 4 1/2★
PRIVILEGES
All-Inclusive • Junior suite
Jan. 4, 11, 18 & 25 • 1 wk.
$1399
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $270

Punta Cana
Gran Bahia Principe Punta Cana • 5★
All-Inclusive • Junior suite
Dec. 22 & 29 • 1 wk.
$1599
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $304

DEAL to EUROPE
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Meliá Tropical • 4 1/2★
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Jan. 12 • 1 wk.
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+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $304

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